



SPORTS:

Wednesday night's 82-73 loss against UM-Rolla puts Southern's MIAA playoff hopes in peril as the Lions head to Pitt State for the season finale...page 12

THE

CHART

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE, JOPLIN, MO 64801-1595
VOLUME No. 58, ISSUE No. 16

AROUND CAMPUS:

Southern students learn sign language with courses offered through continuing education...page 6



STATE CAPITOL

Hancock ruling jeopardizes College funds

Circuit court judge rules improvement money subject to tax refunds

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — A Cole County Circuit Court ruling on Feb. 4 has left the future of Missouri Southern's funding for Spiva Library renovations in limbo, according to College officials.

Until recently considered a "sure thing" by area legislators and Southern officials, Gov. Mel Carnahan's capital improvement recommendation for state higher educa-

tion facilities for fiscal year 1999 could feel the brunt of a two-year-old lawsuit filed by State Auditor Margaret Kelly.

The lawsuit, filed in 1996, accused State Budget Director Mark Ward of improperly figuring Missouri's total state revenues in accordance with the Hancock Amendment. Kelly alleged that she had the sole responsibility for figuring Hancock calculations, and the 11 admission fee to Missouri riverboat gaming facilities should be counted toward the state's total revenues.



Kinder

The fee comprised the bulk of funding that Carnahan intended to use for higher education capital improvements, according to Sen. Marvin Singleton (R-Seneca).

Cole County Circuit Judge Byron Kinder ruled in favor of Ward, citing a referendum approved directly by Missouri voters that stated the admission fee would not be counted toward total state revenues.

But the Cole County Circuit Court reversed that decision after an appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court remanded back to the court over a technicality, opening a "loophole" for redefining the admission fee as state revenue. Two weeks ago, the circuit court ruled in favor of Kelly, citing that technical changes made by the General Assembly to one statute after gain-

ing voter approval negated the referendum's prior voter approval. The case has since been appealed by Attorney General Jay Nixon.

"Right now, everything is up in the air concerning the court decision," said College President Julio Leon. "Some people feel confident the state will prevail because the fee was approved by voters."

"[The lawsuit] has an unusual set of circumstances that got us to this position," Ward said. "Right now the Missouri Supreme Court has not ruled on the issue, so the original case has remained back to the circuit court."

According to Ward, if Nixon's appeal fails to reverse the circuit court's ruling, the decision would "negatively impact the gov-

ernor's capital improvement recommendations."

Southern had been recommended to receive \$5,856,696 for renovations to Spiva Library and \$455,000 for Ummel Technology Building improvements. Carnahan had recommended a total capital improvement sum of \$129,506,545 for all state higher education facilities.

"[If the decision stands], it would pretty much wipe out all capital improvements," Ward said.

Despite the ruling, Ward said the state would await the outcome of the appeal before returning the gaming funds to taxpayers in accordance with the Hancock Amendment. No timetable has been set for an appellate ruling. □

STUDENT LIFE BEAT

Southern receptive of religion

By TAMMY SPICER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The line separating church and state may seem a little fuzzy on the Missouri Southern campus.

"In a different part of the country, religious groups might have more problems," said Doug Carnahan, dean of students. "But not here on this campus."

Religious student organizations have the same rights and privileges as any other student organization at the College, he said.

The religious groups must go through the same process as other groups to become an officially recognized organization. The steps are

outlined in the student handbook. "Separation of church and state comes up a lot when a religious group applies for money from the Student Senate," Carnahan explained. "Some of the senators always ask if that is something we are allowed to do."

The idea of a religious student group applying for money is one that has been tested in the courts and found to be constitutional, he said. The student organizations can also use College facilities.

"I don't think we have ever been denied funding," said Dave Weaver, Koinonia campus minister. "Southern has always been really supportive."

Koinonia is a member of the National Association of Christian Campus Ministries. Weaver has spoken with other campus ministers who sometimes have trouble obtaining funding from their schools.

"Personally, I don't feel it should be a big issue," said Laura Wilhelm, senior biology major and Koinonia vice president. "We are just as

involved as any other campus organization, and we all pay the same student fees."

Having speakers on campus is also an issue the College faces. Southern has established guidelines for the use of College grounds in the student handbook. As long as those rules are followed, anyone is allowed to speak on campus.

"Unless they are disruptive in classes, it really isn't a problem," Carnahan said. "The only time we have had to ask someone to stop or move is when they were drawing such a crowd that students couldn't walk through the area."

Student organizations are not the only ones who deal with separation of church and state. The issue is often addressed in the classroom.

"We are very sensitive to these issues," said Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs. "What is really wonderful about a college campus is that we want issues to be discussed. We want people to feel comfortable and have options in their decision-making process." □



GARRY DUMOND/The Chart

Koinonia minister Dave Weaver quotes the Bible to a gathering at College Heights Baptist.

SPIVA LIBRARY

Common system gives total access

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Green letters on the monochrome monitors of Spiva Library's computer card catalog may match Missouri Southern colors, but Gov. Mel Carnahan has a plan that would replace the obsolete terminals.

Carnahan recommended \$10,206,535 for the implementation of a statewide Common Library Platform System (CLPS) to link libraries throughout the state. However, the House education and public safety appropriations committee removed \$6.8 million from the recommendation, leaving \$3.4 million for the project.

Rep. Gary Burton (R-Joplin) said the adjustment was based on testimony from the librarians that only \$3 million was needed for building the platform's infrastructure. Burton said the CLPS will now be funded over a two- or three-year plan.

"[The CLPS] will make use of the resources of all of the academic libraries, both public and private, available to the people of the state wherever you happen to be," said Charles Kemp, head librarian at Southern.

Kemp, a member of the project committee, said libraries participating in the system will include the four campuses of the University of Missouri and nine other universities, colleges, community colleges, and private academic libraries.

Under the system, students and patrons of the participating libraries would be able to access the network on the World Wide Web. From the CLPS site, users would be able to check out materials from any library with the platform and have the selection immediately delivered to their library.

"It would be similar to what the Kansas folks already have available to them," Kemp said. "I have talked to the Pittsburg State people, and they can send a book or other materials to the other side of the state within 24 hours."

Southern's Library Information Online (LION) catalog would be replaced with a system compatible or identical to ones at other institutions. The LION was installed for use in 1987 and has been the subject of student complaints.

"My high school had a better system," said Brandon Wynn, junior biology major.

Kemp said the new system should have a Windows-like graphical user interface.

"I think that would be absolutely wonderful," Wynn said. Kemp said there is not an exact timetable as to when the system would be online.

"We would like to shoot for next year, probably sometime in the spring," he said. □

PHONATHON

Annual drive yields pledge record with \$250,150

By ERIC GRUBER
STAFF WRITER

After the phone receivers were put back on the hook, the Missouri Southern Foundation's Phonathon exceeded expectations and set a new pledge record.

The goal for this year's Phonathon was set at \$221,000. The Foundation passed that goal with a grand total of \$250,150. The previous record amount pledged was \$233,550 in 1996.

The 1998 Phonathon kicked off Feb. 1 and continued through its finale on Feb. 14. Callers rang up totals Sunday through Thursday over the two-week period during afternoon and evening shifts.

The atmosphere was relaxed, and refreshments were provided for all of the workers who participated. Sue Billingsly, director of the Missouri Southern Foundation, said she was pleased with the volunteers.

"Help was very good," Billingsly said. "One day at the beginning of Tuesday we

didn't have a full house. But everyday since has made up."

Callers varied from students, off-campus volunteers, past donors, alumni, and even Southern faculty members. One such caller was Dr. Ann Marlowe, professor of English. Marlowe said she has volunteered "off and on for several years" and finds the event to be entertaining.

"I enjoy doing it, and it's for a good cause," she said. "I'm kind of a cause-oriented person."

During this year's Phonathon, callers

came from different student organizations including the Accounting Club, women's athletic department, Marketing Club, art students, and band students. Other participating callers included the Young Republicans, staff assistants, and various fraternities and sororities.

Sometimes the job calls for more than just talking, and in turn hearing an off-the-subject story.

"I remember hearing a hardship story," Marlowe said. "I hope things worked out for them." □

ENROLLMENT

Spring numbers show increases in many different areas

By J.L. GRIFFIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Enrollment at Missouri Southern jumped by 78 students compared to last spring's figures.

This number is nice for bragging purposes, but it doesn't amount to much for purposes of budgeting. However, a number that does matter is the 77 extra full-time equivalent students on campus this spring.

In the spring of 1997, the FTE number was 3,817. This year it's up to 3,894. That translates to 65 percent of the student body taking

a full load. The number is derived by taking the total number of credit hours from the student body and dividing by 15, which is the number used to signify full-time status.

"I don't think it was a total surprise," said Dr. Delores Honey, director of assessment and institutional research. "We were hoping for that, but I don't think anyone was expecting as large an increase in full-time students."

Having 78 more full-timers means more revenue for the College.

"Your revenue side goes up, but your expenditure side goes up, too," said Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president. "Typically we have to

add some sections [to the curriculum], so it doesn't add up to a significant amount."

Among other trends noted in the enrollment figures were increases in the junior class, out-of-state students, and freshmen part-timers.

Analysis of the data has yet to be completed, but Honey said she believes the junior class increase stems from a higher number of transfer students.

Last fall, the College's enrollment was at 5,485. This spring the total number of students is down to 5,104. Honey said it was standard to lose some students between fall and spring.

"You don't compare fall to spring," she said. "They're two separate animals."

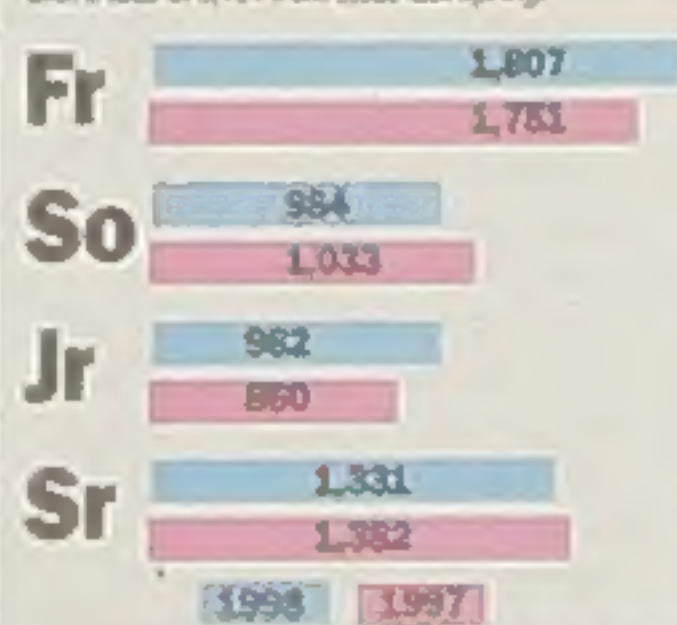
Another significant statistic is the number of first-time freshmen this spring. Ninety-two students are taking college courses for the first time this spring. In the fall there were 740.

The increase in student population is good news, but nothing the College wasn't already expecting. Tiede said in the next 10 years Southern could expect its population to rise 10 percent due to a rise in the U.S. population.

"This last fall was really the first time we expected to get any [students] from that," Tiede said of the Baby Busters. □

Headcount

Southern's spring enrollment jumped up 78 students with a total of 3,894 from 3,816 last spring.



J.L. GRIFFIN/The Chart

Your source for Missouri Southern news and events



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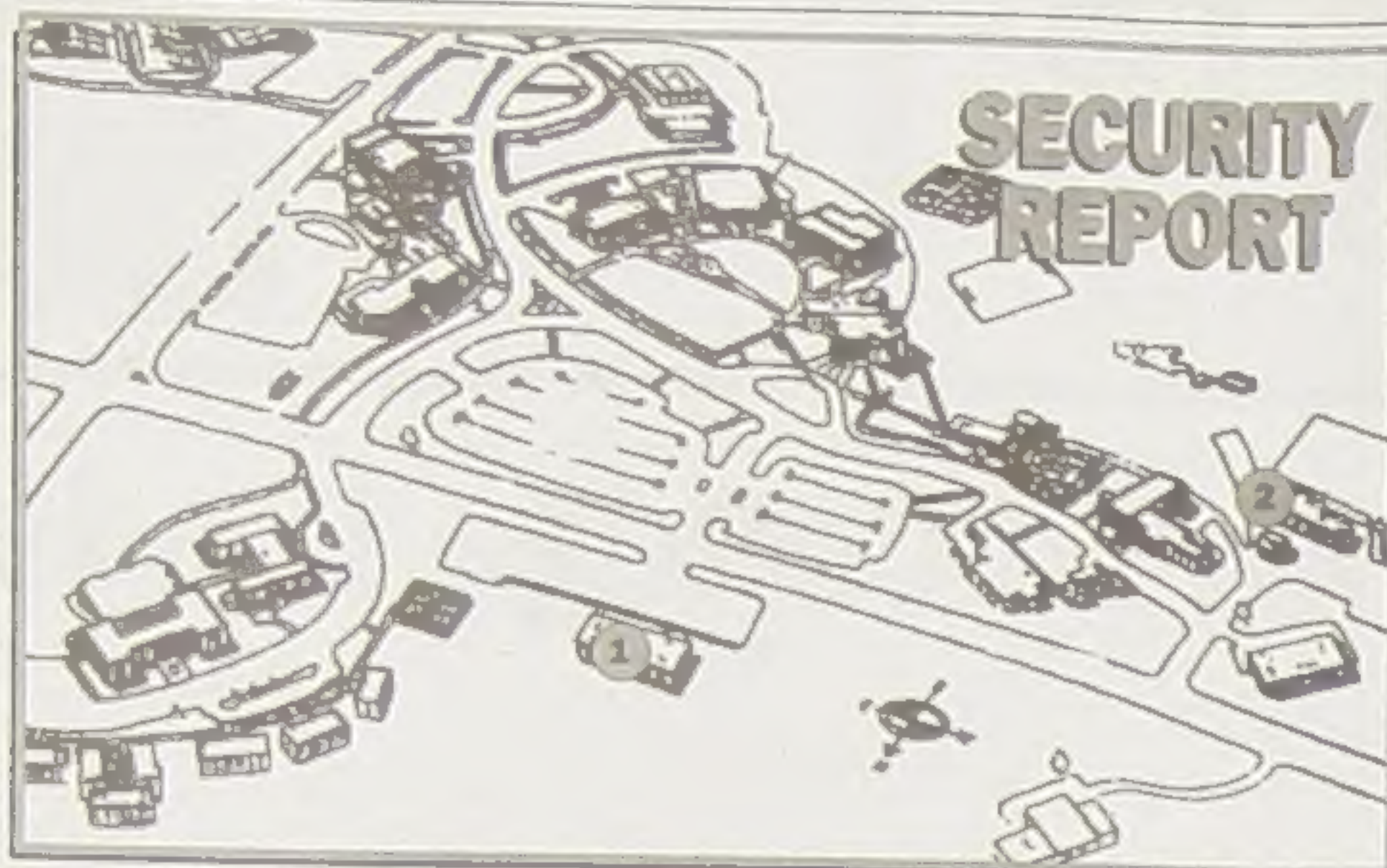
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What's Inside



ARTS SHOWCASE:

The line between art and commercialism is constantly being blurred. In a college classroom, where is the emphasis placed and how do students decide what direction to go? page 7



- 1 02/16/98 Justice Center 1:10 p.m. Janet Walter, senior criminal justice administration major, reported to campus security that her green book bag was taken from a bench in the criminal justice building at noon.
- 2 02/16/98 Lot #34 2:00 p.m. Heidi Chaney, junior biology major, contacted security to report that a College bannock had fallen and damaged the front bumper of her car. Security agreed with that assessment.

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LANGSTON HUGHES CELEBRATION — STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Performer adds jazz to poetry

By BRIN CAVAN
STAFF WRITER

Rhythm and blues and Langston Hughes combine for the sixth annual Langston Hughes Celebration at Missouri Southern. Dr. Steven Tracy adds a musical dimension to the work of Hughes, called "one of the greatest poets and writers of the 20th century."

That sentiment is echoed by Dr. Doris Walters, professor of English at Southern. Walters and Arlene Bradley of the Joplin branch of the NAACP are co-chairpersons of this year's celebration, which begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27 in Webster Hall auditorium. The program is open to the public and free of charge.

"I would like the community to recognize what they have [in Langston Hughes]," Bradley said. "This is someone who has received international acclaim, yet in this area there are adults and children alike who don't know about his work."

"One of the things Langston Hughes is credited with, as a poet, is using the rhythm of jazz in his poetry," Walters said.

In his program, Tracy takes that a step further by performing Hughes' work and adding rhythm and blues tunes using the guitar and harmonica. Tracy's talents have been showcased as the opening act for such performers as Muddy Waters, Johnny Winter, and B.B. King.

Tracy, assistant professor of African-American studies at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, is not only a musician and songwriter but also an author. His works include *Langston and the Blues* and *A Brush With the Blues*.

Randy Brown, past president of the Joplin NAACP, will participate in this year's program. He and Dr. Henry Morgan, professor of English at Southern, were the original organizers of the annual Langston Hughes event.

Michael Rodgers, assistant professor of English at Southern, was the first speaker when the Hughes celebration began. This year, he will host the program as master of ceremonies.

Hughes' writing began to draw critical acclaim in the 1920s, during a period called the "Harlem Renaissance," when black writers, poets, and painters began to gain recognition. Hughes was known as the "Dean of the Harlem Renaissance."

Born in Joplin in 1902, he wrote prolifically until his death in 1967. Walters believes it is important to commemorate Hughes because he is "the most well-known writer that this city can claim."

Probably best known for his poetry, he also wrote plays, short stories, books of essays, and children's literature.

"Hughes gave credibility and value to all kinds of life experiences," Bradley said. □



The Chart's Class of 2001 students are (from left) Wade Early, sociology major; Nann Starkweather, Dental Hygiene major; Tiffany Hilton, undecided major; and Damion Belk, no longer enrolled. Not pictured is biology major Amanda Pulce.

Students hit road bumps after break

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pressure from his first semester and a desire for more free time has caused one of The Chart's Class of 2001 students to choose not to enroll this spring.

"This is just a break," said Damion Belk, freshman computer information science major.

Belk says he missed out on many things during high school and his first semester of college that he wanted to do.

"I'm just going to try to get out and do a lot of stuff I didn't get to do in high school and work on my writing," he said.

Belk has been working on fantasy/fiction writing for more than a year.

Biology major Amanda Pulce has made some fairly substantial changes in her life since last semester, including moving back home and quitting her sorority.

"I don't have a room anymore, because my little sister has my room now," she

said. "I just kind of sleep wherever."

Quitting the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority was due to a number of reasons, one of which was a racial remark that offended Pulce, whose mother is white and father is black. Pulce said while talking with a sorority sister the subject of interracial dating was broached.

"She said she didn't believe in different colors mixing," Pulce said. "She thinks it's gross."

"I didn't say anything. I didn't care that she has those feelings because it's a personal thing, but she didn't have to say anything to me."

Pulce also mentioned time conflicts as a reason that helped her decide to quit.

"It does cost a lot of money, and I'm so involved in other things I couldn't be at all their functions," she said. "And they want you to be at everything."

Two Class of 2001 students, Nann Starkweather and Wade Early, earned perfect 4.0 grade-point averages last semester.

"This semester I'm having a hard time getting into it," Starkweather said.

"Last semester was really hard, but this semester I've kind of let my hair down a little bit."

The 30-year-old divorced mother of three boys is also preparing for a May wedding with her firefighter fiance Tom. With the wedding comes issues of custody and various other legal matters regarding her sons.

"It's just crazy," she said. "We're going to

be in court as soon as possible to sort through all this, but the date may not be until after Tom and I get married."

Because of all the distractions in her life, Starkweather was especially excited to make a 4.0.

"The dental hygiene program is so competitive that I really have to work to make sure I get in," she said.

It is also important for Early to maintain a high GPA because he is a member of the honors program. And he says it was important for him to get a good schedule this semester as he begins his first season as a pitcher for the Southern baseball team.

Early, a sociology major, has not pitched yet this season but says he's had a chance to watch the team on three trips.

"It's hard to say how we're doing right now since we're playing [NCAA] Division I," he said. "Our offense seems to be the strongest part of our game; we're going to score a lot of runs."

Tiffany Hilton, a commuter from Crane, Mo., continues to drive more than an hour to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"Just working and going to school keeps me pretty busy," she said. "It never seems like it's so late, but after I get home and do homework, the time is gone."

While Hilton is still undecided on a major, she says she is looking at her options.

"I'd kind of like to do marine biology, but I can't really do that around here, so I don't know," she said. □

class of 2001

Five freshmen, a cross-section of the Missouri Southern student body, share their concerns, fears, and dreams as they move toward graduation in May 2001.

STUDENT SENATE

Finance committee continues saving binge on allocations

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Members of the Missouri Southern Student Senate continued to save funds for future allocations Wednesday night as only one of three organizations was allocated the full amount of its request.

Chi Epsilon Phi was the first group to take the floor.

The group requested a \$1,000 allo-

cation to attend the Aero Design West competition sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers. CEP will a model airplane that will compete in a weightlifting competition. The Senate finance committee recommended the group receive \$575 for the trip.

Tiffany Humbard from the Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI) presented the group's request for a \$1,000 allocation to help attend an international

conference and exhibition in Tampa, Fla.

"When we come back to the campus we will be doing a presentation for the entire campus," she said.

Finance committee members recommended the group receive the full amount of its request.

It was then mentioned that there were still several other allocations that have been submitted, yet the Senate's treasury balance was just over \$4,000.

"It is important to look at how much money we are spending," senior senator Zak Kuhlmann said. "But we also can't penalize the groups who got their allocations in early."

ACEI was allocated the full \$1,000.

Jason Beam of the Epsilon Psi Chapter of Omega Pi, the national business education honor society, came before the Senate to ask for \$934 to fund a trip to San Antonio. Beam and one other

group member are planning to represent their group on the trip.

The trip would benefit not only the two going, but the entire teacher education department, Beam said.

Because only two members would go to San Antonio, the Senate voted to allocate \$450 of the group's request.

After the allocations, Senate treasurer Alan Brady said that the balance was now around \$2,700. □

EMERITUS FACULTY

Title shows recognition of outstanding contributions to College

By NICK PARKER
MANAGING EDITOR

Sometimes an instructor's impact goes beyond classroom instruction. Sometimes an instructor can help mold an institution.

There is a way Missouri Southern and many other institutions recognize those who have gone the extra mile. These faculty members are given emeritus status.

"It is a title given to faculty who have distinguished themselves at Missouri Southern," College President Julio Leon said. "It is not something that is granted automatically after retirement. These are people whose contributions go beyond the call of duty."

Southern has six such faculty members: Enid Blevins, Loretta Frazier, Cleotis Headlee, Grace Mitchell, Julie Hughes, and Dorothy Stone. Blevins began her Southern career in 1966, Frazier in 1948, Headlee in 1946, Mitchell in 1958, Hughes in 1963, and Stone in 1939.

The six women are a link back to the days of the former Joplin Junior College. For Richard Massa, director of the Institute of International Studies and head of the communications department, the Southern emeriti represent the true image of the College.

"The women on this list are the pillars on which the College was built," Massa said. "They didn't just teach; they made constant contributions to the College. They provided the homey atmosphere that was the junior college and kept it alive when they moved here."

Massa said he knew all of the women well with the exception of Frazier. "Mitchell and Headlee are responsible for anything I have done at Missouri Southern," Massa said. "Mitchell used to bake cookies for students she noticed might be having a difficult time or thought needed some special attention."

Any faculty member can nominate another faculty member for emeritus status. Only one established criterion exists for nomination: the nominee must have taught at Southern for at

Missouri Southern's Emeritus Faculty



least 11 years. The main consideration is based on the person's contributions to the College.

A nomination first is given to the College promotions committee, then passed to Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs. If the nomination passes through the committee and Bitterbaum, then Leon considers the nomination before passing it to the Board of Regents for final consideration.

Although it's been a while since anyone has been nominated for emeritus status, Leon said he fully expects to see more in the near future.

"I think we will definitely see more because we have an outstanding faculty right now," he said. "I think eventually we will see quite a few more. We have a lot of outstanding faculty, and I know we will see some more as they start to retire." □

SOUTHERN NEWS BRIEFS

Eating disorder program visits Southern campus

The National Eating Disorders Screening Program will be on the Missouri Southern campus Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second floor of the Billingsly Student Center.

The program will offer educational information, a written screening test, interviews with health professionals, and referrals for further information. The process is free and anonymous.

The event is in support of Eating Disorders Awareness Week and is sponsored by Southern's counseling services.

Students preferring individual assistance may visit counseling services on the bottom floor of Hearnes Hall during the same times. □

Forensics squad receives more awards at tourney

Another weekend of competition leaves the Missouri Southern forensics squad with more awards under its belt.

The squad participated in the Missouri Association of Forensics Activities on the campus of Longview Community College. Southern placed fifth overall in debate and individual events and sixth in combined overall sweepstakes.

Joe Day, sophomore communications major, placed first in Lincoln-Douglas debate and fourth in parliamentary debate. Tim Parrish, freshman criminal justice administration major, placed fourth in parliamentary debate, second in extemporaneous speaking, sixth in impromptu speaking, and sixth in communication analysis.

Becca Cassidy, sophomore secondary education major, and Tad Stricker, freshman undecided major, placed second in parliamentary debate. All four took the top positions in novice persuasion.

Chris Carr, freshman physics major, placed fourth in novice poetry. Brittany Rigdon, freshman undecided major, took third in novice programmed oral interpretation and third in novice prose. □

CAB offers students tickets at discount prices

Tickets are available at a discount to the Blessed Union of Souls and Allure to Missouri Southern students.

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) has bought a block of 50 floor seat tickets. Students can buy two tickets with their student identification for \$17.50. The regular price is \$22.50.

Tickets are available in the Billingsly Student Center box office. Anyone wishing more information may call 625-9366. □

College health center offers several services

The Missouri Southern Health Center offers health services to College students and faculty.

Services provided include treatment of acute illness, blood pressure checks, immunizations, physicals, sexually transmitted disease testing, and treatment and pregnancy prevention.

Debra Smith, coordinator of health services, has hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dr. Henry Steine works 3 to 6 p.m. on Mondays and noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Marilyn Jacobs, WHNP, offers preventative services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. The services are all available by appointment.

The Health Center is located in Kuhn Hall Room 306. □

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Living the life of an artist isn't so easy

Of late there are those who have come to question my abilities as a reviewer of the arts, so I thought I would lay to rest those feelings by giving all of you a bit of background on my history with the various art forms.

When I was in grade school at the prestigious Mark Twain Elementary School for the Performing Arts in Webb City, I played in a band known as "Me And My Cousin Joe." I played an guitar and lip-synched with such rock greats as Journey, while my cousin Joe did the same. We played to packed houses in such venues as Grandma's Back Porch in the musically advanced town of Oronogo, Mo.



Brian Palmer
Assistant Editor

My next foray into the world of art came while attending the equally prestigious Webb City High School for the Arts, where I began to study pencil drawing quite intensely. I studied the work of such great masters as Todd McFarlane (who was drawing Spider-Man for Marvel back then), and John Fitzgibbon, who influenced my work greatly in the form of giving me credit for taking art class.

After high school, I drifted away from the restrictive mediums of paint and pencil in favor of the freedom of Tex-Mex. Yes, I was a taco artist.

After mastering taco art under the supervision of several different taco art schools in the Joplin metro area, I graduated on to pizza. There I experimented with such rebellious tools as mustard and anchovies. All the while, the urge to return to musical performance pulled at me from my past. I tried to quiet the demons by singing loudly in the car, but that failed, and again I was in a band. Only this time, there was a new twist.

Somehow, I managed to get hold of an actual electric guitar.

Joe and I formed a band known as "The Osmonds." Only later did we discover, much to our disappointment, that name was already taken. So, we decided to use the name "Thunderhead."

Thunderhead was doomed from the start as egos surfaced, so Joe decided the place to get away from people yelling all the time was the United States Navy. The remaining band members opted to change names and continue on, and thus was born "Isaiah." We actually cut a demo. To give you an example of what the demo sounded like, listen to the next paragraph: WEEEOOHGGG-YI-YI-YI-YIAGGGU-UMMP.

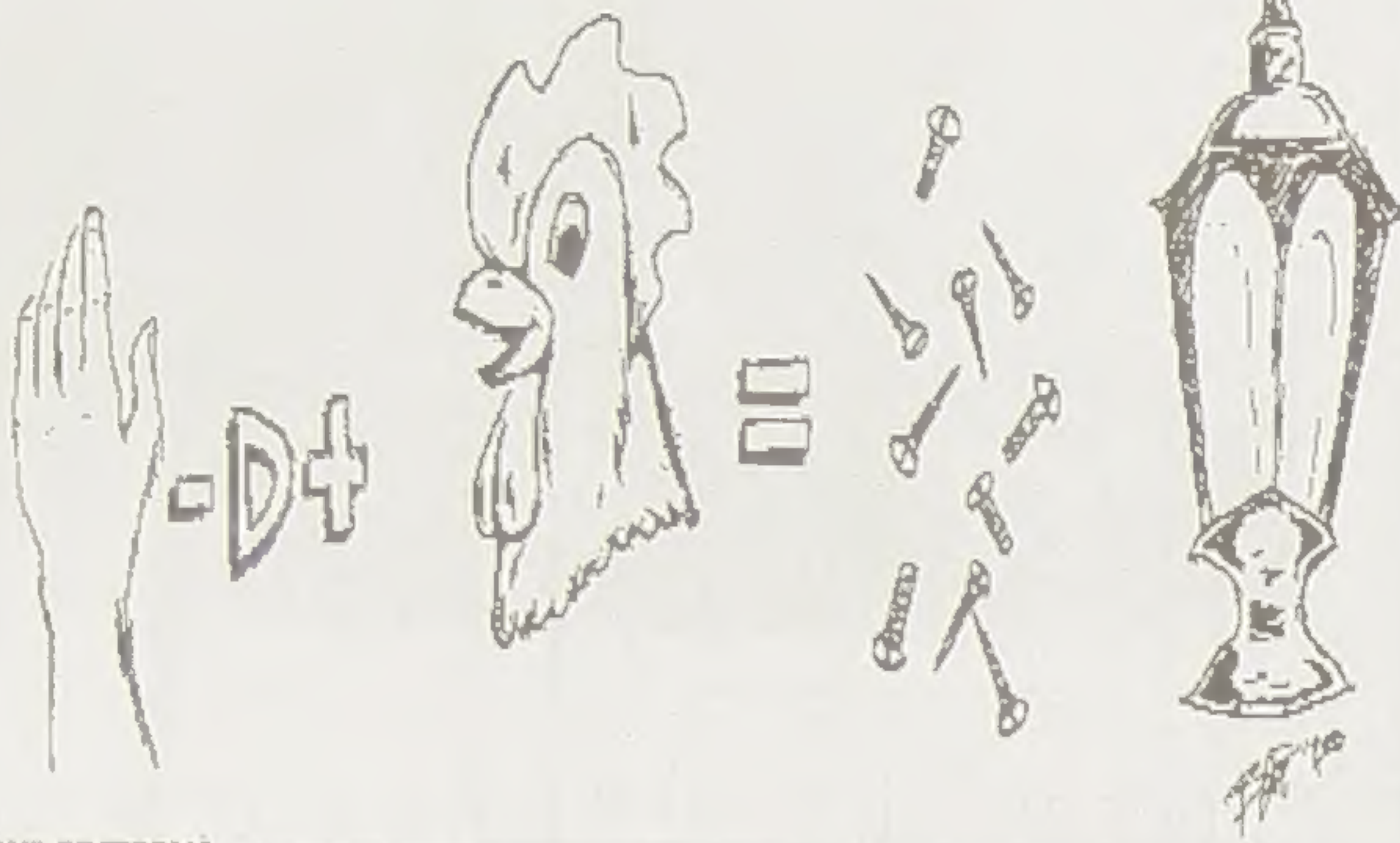
If your ear is bleeding but you can still hear, the volume on your newspaper is too low. Turn it up and try again until your taste buds disintegrate. Thank you.

As does often happen, my stardom got to my head, and I decided to give acting a try. I played the part of Victim No. 1 in the horror classic *Day of the Pig* and was primed for my breakout role as 'The Hooker' in the cult classic *Two Farm Boys A Crack Dealer And A Hooker*.

I believe it was my great rock-star hair that landed me that role.

Afterward, I decided to flex my directorial muscle by directing the short film *One Night In The Park*, a film that was later ripped off with mixed results by none other than Jim Carrey (this is true).

So the next time anyone thinks I've written a stinky review, just remember — at least it came from someone who knows the arts, and knows them well. ☐



OUR EDITORIAL

Unsigned editorials on this page express the opinions of a majority of The Chart editors. Observations elsewhere on the page represent independent viewpoints of columnists, cartoonists, and readers.

Hancock screws Southern

Mel Hancock's legacy of selfishness has caught up with Missouri Southern once again, this time threatening the future of the planned renovations to Spiva Library and Ummel Technology Building.

A judge in Cole County has ruled the money Gov. Mel Carnahan had allotted for higher education's capital improvement funding this year is subject to the Hancock Amendment's tax refund.

As everyone recalls, this near-sighted piece of legislation was passed by overzealous citizens of Missouri in 1980 when most of Southern's current student body was just learning finger-painting and how to color by numbers. Meanwhile the voters were taking advantage of all perks that went with capital improvement funding without the worries of damaged legislation.

It has taken nearly two decades for the Hancock Amendment to be recognized as legal, but that didn't stop proponents from continuing their incessant harping over the issue. Missouri has thrived in the 18 years since Hancock was passed. Tax rates were never unjustified or unfair.

Many of the people who were "over-taxed" during the amendments stint in legal limbo are dead. Who gets that money?

The logical thing to do, since we are forced to live with the Hancock Amendment, is to start the slate fresh, not make the refunds retroactive.

It is quite obvious the harm retroactivating the refunds will do, and is already doing.

The best course of action is to start a campaign to repeal the Hancock Amendment.

If America could repeal prohibition, Missouri can certainly do the same with this. Besides, by repealing the Hancock Amendment citizens would get more than just a long, cool, tall one.

The funds being threatened under Hancock jeopardize the very fabric of the state: Our educational system.

By damaging the educational system, Hancock damages Missouri's future. This legislation was an overrated campaign ploy developed by a man who never managed to leave a lasting impression on anything besides the annals of mediocrity.

Without the much-needed funding, Spiva Library will exist in those same annals. Not worthy of bearing the name of someone who gave so much. If those renovation funds do not materialize, a rededication is in order, and there is only one person's name that should be emblazoned on our library: Mel Hancock. ☐

YOUR LETTERS

The Chart welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. Submit letters to The Chart office on the third floor of Webster Hall, fax them to (417) 625-9742, or send via e-mail. Our e-mail address: Chart@mail.mssc.edu. Letters are due by noon Monday for publication in that week's edition.

Reader finds album review un'Yield'ing

This letter is in response to Mr. Palmer's shallow review of the new Pearl Jam album *Yield*. Upon reading his article, I had a difficult time believing he was talking about the same album.

A review of that nature is more worthy of the band's previous disaster, *No Code*. *Yield* flows wonderfully from start to finish, unlike any album I have heard recently (with the strong exception of Radiohead's *OK Computer*). Unlike Mr. Palmer, I think

"Do the Evolution" and "In Hiding" are two of the album's stronger tracks. The former being the new anthem for anthropologists and the latter reminiscent of the "Jeremy" days.

As far as trying to sound like someone else, the only track I feel sounds anything like another band is "Given to Fly." It sounds like what Led Zeppelin intended "Going to California" to sound like. Needless to say, I believe this to be a very

fine album and would recommend it to anyone who appreciates real rock music. However, if you want to save a buck, don't go out and buy a Jimi Hendrix album. Break out your old copy of *Nevermind* and listen to the other great left-handed guitar player from Seattle. Remember Cobain?

Nathan Rice
Senior marketing major

College should 'stand on its own two feet'

In response to the Feb. 13 Chart editorial on the faculty's various ideas for fund-raisers, I would admonish The Chart staff to be less hasty to knock the faculty down. Granted, washing cars or selling cheese logs door to door is a ludicrous way to raise \$657,000, and President Leon realizes that, I'm sure. I don't think either the College president or his advisers intended to try to raise the sum that way.

The credit that our faculty really deserves is that they want our college to stand on its own two feet (at least to a degree). We as individuals, as well as a college, can't expect the community to hold us up, nor should we expect that. People working and taking the initiative to support themselves and their families (or their various institutions) is one of the key factors in a strong economy.

I'm not trying to say that helping your neighbor will harm the economy; rather I'm saying that it is unfair and impractical to rely on your neighbor without utilizing your own means first.

Daniel Andelin
Freshman biology major

IN PERSPECTIVE

Ummel Tech offers unique environment

Where in the world is Ummel Technology? This question is asked almost daily to those of us who have the pleasure of teaching and learning there. It has been my experience over the past seven years that many students and faculty at Missouri Southern do not know the world of opportunities the degree programs offer at Ummel Technology.

Let me take the opportunity to describe the Ummel Technology's building and location. It is in the western part of the campus down in the valley where the rest of the college towers above.

Ummel is the only building on campus partially surrounded by a "moat" with a barn also as its neighbor. Webster defines a moat as a water-filled trench around the rampart of a castle. Ummel may not appear as a castle to outsiders, but once its doors are entered you will find a wealth of opportunities to fulfill one's educational dreams. I think we are one of the best-kept secrets on campus.

The Ummel Technology building is the home of four different degree programs, dental hygiene, computer aided drafting and design (CADD), computer assisted manufacturing (CAM), and manufacturing information management systems (MIMS). There are eight full-time and six part-time faculty who create an interesting and unique learning environment.

Ummel Technology is very blessed to have the most state-of-the-art computers and equipment to enhance the learning experience for its students. The knowledge and experience of utilizing this equipment makes our students more marketable to employers. All in all, high student-faculty contact, excellent instruction, and state-of-the-art equipment has increased the demand for these programs. The faculty are constantly working and consulting in their prospective areas to stay abreast of the current trends and needs of the employer. These programs have 98 percent placement after graduation with an average salary starting at \$30,000 annually.

The programs are not only concerned with the traditional student but provide workshops, seminars, and training centers to area professionals/industries, ultimately increasing their productivity and quality.

The greatest asset of the programs is the students. They are team players, working together to conquer the challenges that are presented as part of the curriculum. Students enjoy having the opportunity to apply concepts that are learned immediately. The positive attitude of the students is displayed by their enthusiastic behavior.

Students provide a significant amount of community service related to their degree. The community service includes the dental sealant program for the Joplin R-8 school district; in-services for hospitals and long-term care facilities; educational programs; prints (drawings) for corporations, individuals, and non-profit organizations; and a depository of city blueprints.

When you have some free time, venture down the hill and see Sandy, Nancy, Rhonda, Marcia Kay, Jennifer, Don, Fran, Moe, J.S., and of course, myself, Tia, for a first-hand experience and glimpse of the wonderful world of Ummel Technology. By the way, we will leave the drawbridge down for you. ☐



Tia Strait
Dental Hygiene,
assistant professor

THE CHART

SPJ — The Nation's Best Non-Daily Collegiate Newspaper (1995, 1996)
ACP National Pacemaker (1997)
ACP Pacemaker Finalist (1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997) MCMA — "Best in State" (1993-94, 1996-97)

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'59 STUDEBAKER

Poor man's automobile proves tough

By BRIN CAVAN
STAFF WRITER

Bogey doesn't realize what a lucky dog he is. He's a Jack Russell terrier who regularly gets to ride in two '59 Studebaker Silver Hawks.

The Hawks belong to Dr. Robert Markman, associate professor of history at Missouri Southern. His current autos were purchased in 1986 and 1991, but he has owned Studebakers most of his life.

"I had them when I was a student in college," he said. "They were a poor man's car. You could always buy one for \$100, or I did anyway."

Of the two cars, the white one is more mechanically sound, but the blue Silver Hawk is a much "tighter" car.

"It's a superior car, but it doesn't have any pep," Markman said. "In the summertime, I run it some so it doesn't forget what it's supposed to do."

He drives the white '59 on a regular basis, and the car's 159-cubic-inch V-8 starts up and runs well for a 40-year-old machine with minimal maintenance.

When Markman retires, he may put the work into the cars needed for show quality, and give them to daughters Jill and Deb.

At present, he has neither the time nor the inclination.

In the past, he did more mechanical work on the cars.

"I often do work and it turns out worse," he said. "If you have a lot of parts left over after a carburetor repair, you are in trouble."

More than anything, Markman uses his car for standard transportation, with Bogey at his side.

Matthew Holt, past president and member of the Ozark Trails Studebaker Driver's Club, thinks Markman has the right idea.

"The Studebaker Club is different from other auto clubs," he said. "At the heart of it, the focus is to keep the owners driving these cars. Dr. Markman is doing the very thing we encourage people to do."

Holt graduated from Southern in 1976 with a degree in music education. His is one of more than 100 families involved in the Ozark Trails Club, with members in northwest Arkansas, northeast Oklahoma, southeast Kansas, and more than one-third of Missouri.

Upcoming activities include a Studebaker show at the Northtown Mall in Springfield on April 11 and a show at the Northpark Mall in Joplin on July 18.

Studebaker owners will run their cars at the MO-KAN Drag Strip on Aug. 9. In Branson, Sept. 12-13, Ozark Trails will participate in the third annual International Orphan Car Show to display cars with makers that no longer exist.

"The Studebaker was ahead of its time," Holt



TIM WILSON/The Chart

This 1959 Studebaker Silver Hawk is owned by Dr. Robert Markman, associate professor of history. He drives it regularly, much to the delight of an area Studebaker driver's club.

said. "The Studebaker V-8 was one hot engine. They were not only powerful but economical to operate."

"Time has proven they were really tough vehicles. It was hard to wear one out."

Markman proves that daily, driving his Silver

Hawk to work, around town, even to St. Louis.

For him, it's a continuing trip down nostalgia lane.

"If you've had a Studebaker, a Mustang, an Edsel — there's something back there," he said. "You just don't let go of those things." □

Nuts & Bolts

Car stories of the ages

Car stories. Everybody's got at least one tale of a daring escapade, a hot rod they've owned, or a particularly aggravating, troublesome lemon they've channeled too much time and money into.

It's almost incomprehensible for the majority of people in this country

to imagine life without automobiles, even though we've only had access to self-propelled transportation for a century.

Automobile manufacturers have, over the years, designed, developed, and implemented countless improvements to make our mode of transportation safer, more economical, and less environmentally detrimental every year since the first model rolled out of the factory.

Roads have developed from rutty dirt and gravel trails to massive, multi-lane concrete interstate highways, crisscrossing our nation tirelessly.

Poets and minstrels have praised and appraised the importance of motor vehicles in our society.

For the American teenager, the first car is a symbol that he, or she, is coming of age.

Every parade and every small town fair includes show vehicles, in whatever form, from go-carts and ATVs to limousines and antiques. The internal-combustion-engine-powered automobile is an ever self-endearing piece of our culture and our heritage. We're car nuts.

This being 1998, what is going to be in store for car owners in the 21st century? We all know that eventually the automobile, as we know it, will go the way of the horse and buggy. Isn't it amazing how our machines evolve so much faster than we do?

Electric and solar power, alcohol and methane power, and pneumatic-powered vehicles are being developed here in Joplin.

The flying cars of the "Jetsons" cartoon show could be closer to becoming a reality than we realize, but I would predict that even a flying "Jetson" type car would be used in all the ways we now use our gasoline-powered vehicles.

The future of transportation could include the sport of sky racing, with balloon buoys marking the track boundaries. You wouldn't have to worry about drivers hitting the wall. Of course, a stalled engine could lead to a sudden stop — when you plowed into the ground.

Imagine the out-of-the-way places our ancestors might be taking their dates for their Saturday night parking. Drivers wouldn't have to worry about bicycles, car-chasing dogs, possum, deer, loose livestock, or pedestrians, so I suppose the streets would be safer.

Whatever the future of transportation may be, the legacy of the 20th century automobile will live on in our stories and songs. I'll bet our great grandchildren's car stories will put ours to shame. □



Kevin Coleman
Associate Editor

CAMPUS ASSISTANCE

Security does more than ticket

By MARILYN TAFT
STAFF WRITER

Mail carriers aren't the only people working in all weather conditions; so do Missouri Southern's campus security.

"Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year, there's a security person here," explained Craig Richardson, crime prevention and public relations officer.

This means that no matter what time of day or night or what holiday, students may obtain assistance from campus security.

As a courtesy to students, campus security will air up flat tires, jump dead batteries, and unlock car doors, said Dallas Fortner, campus security officer. Fortner calls it a motor assist.

"It was a dreary kind of day, overcast, and I left my lights on in my truck," said Tony Arnall, senior mathematics major.

He contacted campus security and waited by his truck for an officer to arrive.

"It took about 45 minutes," Arnall said.

Tonia Agee, senior general studies major, said she left her lights on and needed a jump.

It took campus security about five minutes to help her. She admits she did not know to call campus security. Agee asked her mother, Waudenna Agee, senior speech communication major.

"I called and they (campus security) came right over," Waudenna Agee said. "We left our lights on two days in a row."

Courtesy calls are not the only services security offers students. Officers also aid students in finding their lost or stolen cars.



Craig Richardson, Missouri Southern security guard, helps a motorist who locked their keys in their car.

DEBORAH SOLOMAN/The Chart

"The first thing I ask a student reporting a stolen car is 'Are you behind in your payments?'" said Bill Boyer, chief of campus security.

He said a few cars have been repossessed from the Southern parking lots, leaving students to believe their cars were stolen.

Campus security deals with apparently abandoned student vehicles. Vehicles in question are marked, and a card requesting the students to contact security is placed on the car. After 48 hours, with no contact from the student, security attempts to locate the student owner. Using the number from the green vehicle permit, security finds students by putting the number into the computer.

"Often times we find that students have gone out of town temporarily," Boyer said.

He said students may call campus security before they leave and let them know their cars will be left for a designated period of time.

Accidents on campus also warrant involvement by campus security. Officers take reports and alert proper authorities, such as the Joplin police and fire departments. □

VEHICLE REPAIR

Mechanic branches out to his own shop

By KEVIN COLEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

He doesn't punch a time clock or answer to a supervisor, because after several years of working for others, Randy Curry now owns his own backyard mechanic shop.

Just passing by on the road, many people would not notice the mobile home, but if they had car trouble they might be interested in the two-car garage sitting next to it at 4539 Cherry Road.

"I did it on the side for three and a half years while I worked for other people," said Curry, shop owner and operator. "I worked seven and a half years at Wal-Mart as their front-end alignment man."

While working at Wal-Mart, Curry would bring other people's cars home to work on them.

"I just got tired of punching a time clock and decided to try it on my own," he said. "It had already worked out well for three and a half years doing it on the side."

Curry rebuilds engines, among other things. He rebuilt 17 engines last year while he was doing brake jobs and various smaller mechanic jobs.

"I just try to do everything," he said. "There are times when you're

rebuilding engines that it gets kind of slow, so I try to schedule the smaller jobs around rebuilding the engines."

When Curry rebuilds an engine he likes to do it right.

"I like to paint the block, put in new freeze plugs and cam bearings," he said. "I believe in doing the job right the first time."

Curry's overhaul includes "everything from pistons to freeze plugs." He changes the oil and anti-freeze, puts on all new hoses, and tunes the engine while it's out of the car.

"It's easier for me to put on a new part than it is to put on an old part," Curry said.

When a pickup owned by the Ozark Center at Joplin needed an overhaul in November, Curry was the one contacted to do the job.

"We haven't had a lot of trouble with it since he worked on it," said Donna Arnold, materials management supervisor. "He had it for three or four days, and he even did more than we asked him on it. And he was still really reasonable on his pricing."

It takes Curry approximately ten days to rebuild an engine. But if clients can get by without the car for a few days, he says he can save them \$500 to \$600, on the average, over buying one from the auto parts store. □

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CAMPUS
AROUND

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Hand movements cross verbal barriers

By JEFF BILLINGTON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Speaking with the use of hands is the only way some people have of letting even their simplest thoughts be known.

A class offered by Missouri Southern's continuing education department gives people a chance to learn this silent speech.

Joyce Booher, instructor of sign language, has been teaching night classes at Southern for about five years.

"Someone asked me to teach the class," she said, "They sent me to Dr. [Jerry] Williams (director of continuing education) and we just went from there."

She instructs three levels of American Sign Language (ASL).

"My level one class is always the largest," Booher said, "I have 30 in that class, so we split the class and a deaf lady is teaching part of them and I'm teaching the other part."

She said her hearing-impaired co-instructor, Joan Huffman, also helps teach the level three course.

"The level three classes are all interpreters on the job," Booher said.

She said many people take the courses because they know someone who is hearing-impaired.

"I have people that are connected with deaf people," Booher said.

"There's a connection there some way, and that's why they pursue it."

She said she has a student in the level one class who wants to be an interpreter, and she hopes she continues because interpreters are in short supply.

"I encourage students to take level one more than one time and level two more than one time because you cannot go through one, two, and three and come out an interpreter," she said.

"It's a foreign language and, just like any other foreign language, you have to practice."

Booher, who also works as a sign language

“

It's a foreign language, and just like any other foreign language, you have to practice.

Joyce Booher
Sign language instructor

”

coordinator for the Joplin R-8 School District, said many interpreters are taking the classes because of new certification laws.

Stephanie Blevins, a member of the level two class, said she is taking the course to help her to prepare for certification.

"I'm a sign language teacher and the language I use is called Signed Exact English, and that's different from ASL in that you sign every word that's spoken," Blevins said.

She said that sign language is a continuum with American Sign Language at one end and then you move down to Signed Exact English.

"In order to be licensed and certified in the state of Missouri now, you need to be able to sign ASL and also Pigeon Signed English, so I'm taking PSE in Afton, Okla., one night a week, then I'm taking ASL here."

She said that these classes are important since American Sign Language is now the third most used language in the United States. She wishes more classes like this, and even some geared toward teaching to interpret, would be offered.

"I would like to see more in the line of learning to be an interpreter because you can learn the language, but that doesn't make you an interpreter," she said. □



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Joyce Booher, sign language instructor, speaks in sign to her class in American

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Clubs of past reflect times

Trends in student organizations fade out as popularity changes

BETH HAMILTON
STAFF WRITER

Seven years ago, in the field at the northeast corner of the residence halls, broncos bucked and bulls threw off their riders at a rodeo sponsored by the Missouri Southern Saddle Club.

This club is one of many clubs no longer existing at Southern. This is the first year it is not active. Wayne Stebbins, associate professor of biology, advised the Saddle Club, which first was called the Rodeo Club and began with 25 members. The club had a reason to change the name.

"People felt if they didn't participate in a rodeo they couldn't join," he said. "We did have a common interest in horses. I really kind of miss the interaction between students."

Stebbins enjoys riding horses and has been involved with rodeo activities. He said many factors contributed to low membership in the club, such as many students working and losing the president of the club mid-semester.

"The leadership of a club can make it or break it," he said. "I really doubt it will get restarted. I don't really see the interest right now."

Val Carlisle, coordinator of student activities, said there are currently no active clubs at Southern. People start clubs because they have a hobby or interest and they want to see if anyone else shares this interest.

"I would encourage students who have an interest to see if there are other students with the same interest," she said. "I do a booklet every fall, and it has all the student organizations in it."

Carlisle rifled through the inactive files of clubs now reduced to obsolescence. The Flying Club, the Gold Bar Club, and Fall Gospel Student Fellowship are among the list of casualties.

One club that almost went out but revived in the Philosophy Club. It started in the late 1980s and went dormant for several years. Jenny Jecmen, junior sociology major and secretary of the Philosophy Club, joined



SPECIAL TO THE CHART

Kelly Alstrop (left) and Kevin Woodson, two former Missouri Southern ROTC members, repel a local cliff last year, a comeback year for the club.

"We got some students in the sociology classes that were interested in bringing it back, and we brought it back," she said. "We started having meetings at the Java House, bringing in speakers from some of the surrounding universities and our campus, and talking about philosophical issues. We try to talk about issues that are important and make it more modern and bring it to the forefront."

Another inactive group is the Bicycle Club. The club's adviser was Dr. Brad Kleindl, assistant professor of business.

"It was a group of students that were interested in bike riding," he said.

The Bicycle Club started in 1989-90 with Kleindl, who left Southern two years ago work on his doctorate. Club members would ride road bikes near George Washington Carver National Monument and Atlas Powder, among other places.

"The bike riding I do now is with my 7-year-old and 9-year-old," Kleindl said.

Fellowship with people who share similar interests is an important aspect of any club, and former clubs reflect dominant interests of their times. □

PUBLISHING

Faculty create texts

By MARLA HINKLE
STAFF WRITER

Several instructors at Missouri Southern have written textbooks and incorporated them into their curriculum. One of the most recent faculty members to write a textbook is Nancy Karst, assistant professor of dental hygiene.

"I was surprised when publisher Appleton and Lange, Simon & Schuster approached me to revise the text of Dental Anatomy, which has been used since 1975," Karst said.

Karst said poor-quality drawings and inaccurate information motivated her to take on the task of revision.

"I was extremely dissatisfied with the line drawings from in the previous text, many of which were inaccurate and hard for students to follow," she said.

The new computer-generated drawings were created by Kevin Minear, a Missouri Southern graduate of the CADD program. Karst said these drawings make it easier for students to see the minute details obscured by the less-detailed line drawings.

"This new format is much more accurate, and the feedback from the students has been that they learned a lot from the easy-to-follow format."

Another Southern instructor is in the process of publishing a textbook in Dr. Dirk Nelson, head of the department of kinesiology.

"I have just finished writing a textbook, *Perspectives in Nutrition*, which is being published by CauseWise Publishing Company," he said.

The book is geared toward kinesiology majors and possibly some biology majors. Nelson said the process of writing the book took six to eight months.

Dr. Phillip Wise, assistant professor, music, says his textbook, *So, You're The New Band Director: Now What?*, published by Simon and Schuster in 1996, helps students take a practical approach to band.

"By using my book in the classroom, students learn to take on a more practical approach to music," Wise said.

Writing a textbook in addition to teaching regular classes poses quite a challenge for instructors, says Dr. N. Ree Simpkins, assistant professor of sociology.

"Southern is a teaching college, so I think writing a textbook geared toward students is an important extension of what we do in the classroom," Simpkins said.

In addition to her regular classes, Simpkins is in the process of having some of her work published in two sociology books. The work by Simpkins is two chapters for different publications, "Sexual Behaviors," in *A Case Study Approach to Social Problems*, and "Divorce and Poverty," in *Deviant Behavior: A Case Study Approach to Understanding Social Problems*. The anticipated publication date is this spring.

"The whole process of writing for these textbooks has enriched my teaching within the sociology class," Simpkins said. □

CAMPUS CALENDAR

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Jeff Billington at 625-9311.



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21**

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22**

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**Monday
23**

Celebrate the Pond, 30th Anniversary of the Biology Pond, free art and essay contest, Spiva Art Gallery
•George Washington Carver Memorial art and essay contest, Spiva Art Gallery
7 p.m.—
Baptist Student Union Quest Fellowship, Baptist Student Union Building

**Tuesday
24**

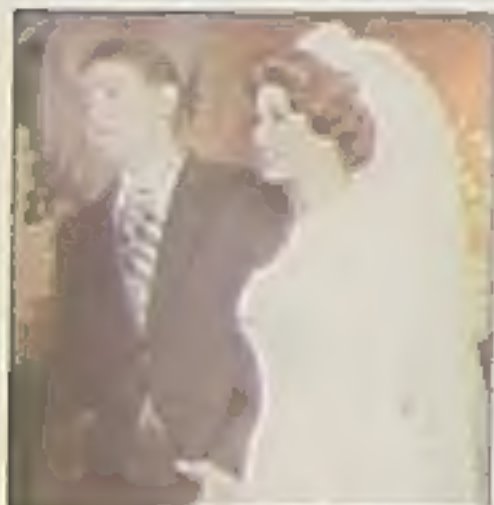
9 a.m.—
Morning Mass, BSC, Room 306

**Wednesday
25**

Senior Assessment Day, no classes
10 a.m.—
National Eating Disorders Screening Program, BSC 2nd floor
9 p.m.—
Wesley Foundation Midweek Worship

**Thursday
26**

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.—
Kolonia Lunch, basement of Stogge Hall
12:20 p.m.—
Model UN meeting, Webster Hall, Room 223
•NBS, Webster Hall, MSTV Studio
6:30 p.m.—
Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, BSC, 2nd floor



■ 'Guns and Dolls' will play at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday at the Taylor Performing Arts Center. For reservations call 625-3190

Art vs. the Almighty Dollar

Creative people count costs when pursuing careers in fine arts

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Career choices are never easy, but they are especially difficult for fine arts students. They dream of being the next Salvador Dali, John Coltrane, or Maya Angelou, but when it comes right down to it, economic realities often relegate artistic passion to the back burner.

"It's a shot in the dark you either make it big or you starve for the rest of your life," laughed Jorge Leyva, a local artist.

Leyva graduated from Missouri Southern with an art degree in 1989, obtained two master's degrees in art, and now pursues his art full time.

"I've been working at it for about four years now," he said. "It's been a struggle, but art is passion. If you have it, you do it."

In spite of the struggle, Leyva clearly enjoys the challenge. His formula for success is to keep the art first and the marketing second.

"It is a question of priorities," he said. "If the art can survive on its own, an artist can make it anywhere. Before I market my work, I have to market myself."

A certain amount of serendipity plays into artistic success, but no artist would discount the critical necessity of a proper foundation and lots of hard work.

For Andy Thomas, a Carthage artist and Southern alumnus, a career in commercial art provided the foundation for his current success.

"I started working at Leggett & Platt as a commercial artist while I was still in high school," he said. "When I left in 1990, I was the staff vice president of marketing services."

As he was promoted, Thomas said he became more of a manager than an artist. To fill the void, he took up oil painting as a hobby.

"With my wife's encouragement, and that's very important, I left the company to try to make a living as an artist," he said. "I had a wonderful job, and I could not do what I'm doing today without the experience I gained at Leggett & Platt."

Thomas has no regrets about his career change.

"I'm right where I want to be," he said. "I wake up every morning thinking about how I can hone my skills that day."

Still, he said, economic concerns influence his art. With a wife and six children, he has to create the kind of art that sells.

"I have to seek subjects and styles that are marketable, but that's not necessarily bad," he said. "All art forms are communication, and if the art is not received, it is not communicated."

Thomas has found success in "people paintings," particularly those with family themes. He also paints Civil War scenes, which allows him to combine his love of history with his love of art.

Thomas considers his wife one of the keys to his success.

"My wife is my business manager," he said. "She takes care of all the marketing concerns, and that leaves me free to concentrate on my art."

For Dr. Joy Dworkin, associate professor of English, writing poetry must fit into the nooks and crannies of her life for now, but



Southern alumnus Andy Thomas works on an oil painting in his Carthage studio. Thomas left a successful 16-year career in commercial art to pursue his painting full time in 1990.

she anticipates a time when she will be free to write. In the meantime, her job complements her art.

"My family provides an example of the difficult choice artists make," she said. "My brother is a jazz musician and my sister is a dancer and choreographer. All three of us grew up knowing that we didn't want to end

up bitter over short-changing our creative selves."

Dworkin emphasized the importance of self-awareness to the aspiring artist.

"My advice is to honor all the parts of yourself," she said. "Be aware of what really matters to you and be conscious of where you're putting your energies." □

COMMENTARY

Sandler tests talent in 'Singer'

Three years after departing from his alma mater *Saturday Night Live*, actor/comedian Adam Sandler continues to explore the range of his abilities in the motion picture industry.

In an attempt to veer away from the clown antics that sparked his comedic rise in such films as *Billy Madison* and *Happy Gilmore*, Sandler's latest Hollywood release, *The Wedding Singer*, tries with mixed results to demonstrate the actor's serious side.

Singer, set in a fictional New York City suburb in 1985, finds Sandler cast as Robbie Hart, a sweet, guy-next-door wedding singer working in the middle of the 1980s pop rock culture. However, after being stood up at his own wedding, Sandler's character sinks into the throes of depression, and it's up to his new-found friend Julia (played by Drew Barrymore) to bring him out of it.

What little conflict found in *Singer* stems from the budding relationship between Sandler and Barrymore, who herself is engaged to a sleazy, womanizing Wall Street trader. Under the guise of helping Barrymore plan her own wedding, the two innocent suburbanites spend an increasing amount of time together, both ultimately realizing they'd rather be staring into each other's eyes at the altar than anyone else's.



Aaron Deslatte
Associate Editor

In Review

Box Office Leaders

1. Titanic
2. The Wedding Singer
3. Sphere
4. Good Will Hunting
5. As Good As It Gets
6. The Borrowers
7. The Replacement Killers
8. Great Expectations
9. Blues Brothers 2000
10. L.A. Confidential

While performing the character adequately, Sandler seems to try almost too hard at some points to be so insufferably charming, almost entirely departing from the vulgar sarcasm that pours from his three comedy albums.

Singer is also hindered by unamusing cameos turned in from Sandler's former *Saturday Night* cohorts Kevin Nealon and Jon Lovitz.

For some reason, ex-*Saturday Nighters* always seem to make movies in groups, and *Singer*'s ensemble seems to be an attempt by New Line Cinema gurus to extract laughter based on face recognition rather than creativity.

The only worthwhile supporting performance comes from indie-film veteran Steve Buscemi, who plays a drunk best man at one of Sandler's gigs.

Aside from Buscemi, the film's brightest comedic moments come at the expense of the time period. Spoofy references to everything from J.R. Ewing's death in *Dallas* to hairdos reminiscent of *A Flock of Seagulls* serve as the primary origin for the film's humor, a majority of which will fly over younger viewers' heads faster than German rock fluke Nena's career.

Here's a test: viewers who know the lyrics to "99 Luftballons" and are willing to admit so in public will most likely enjoy this film. □

SOUTHERN THEATRE

Teamwork creates magic

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

When the curtain rises on Southern Theatre's production of *Gyps and Dolls* next week, the audience will be transported to another place and time.

That's the magic of theatre. But behind the magic lies a lot of hard work.

Like a colony of ants, the theatre crew executes a precise plan for every production. The director begins meeting with the stage manager and designers 20 weeks prior to the performance.

Rhea Brown, junior theatre major, is the make-up and hair designer for *Gyps and Dolls*.

"I start by reading the play," she said. "Then we have three meetings where the director gives his concept and the designers discuss what they're going to do. I make renderings of all the characters and present them to the director for feedback."

Brown said she works closely with the costume designer, Anne Jaros, associate professor of theatre. They carefully research the time period to achieve an authentic look.

Although many of the actors do their own make-up and hair, Brown is ultimately responsible for seeing that everyone looks good throughout the performance.

"For *Gyps and Dolls* I have 38 people to do," Brown said. "Seven of the women are wearing wigs and some of them have several costume changes."

Some of the costumes for this performance were rented, Jaros said, but she and the students make many of them, especially the dresses. Sequins, satin, and feathers are flying this week as

costumes are finished and fitted.

On stage, a giant jigsaw puzzle of sorts is under way.

"We were able to locate and rent the original Broadway set for this production," said Shawn Irish, Southern alumnus in charge of scenery and lighting. "This set won a Tony award in 1992. It arrived in two 50-foot trailers with no instructions."

As a lighting designer, Irish's work also began weeks ago.

"A light designer tries to light the mood of the show and give impact to dramatic scenes," he said. "I draw what's called a light plot and give it to the electricians and they hang the lights."

Irish plots every light cue and scenery change throughout the performance and passes the baton to the stage manager, Parade Heidlage, senior theatre major.

"I organize everything," Heidlage said. "The director is in control until tech week (one week before performance) and after that, if something goes wrong, it's my fault. I run the rehearsals, and during the performance I'll be in the balcony calling all the light and sound cues."

Donald Leffert, junior theatre major and stage "techie," defined Heidlage's role.

"It's like being an air-traffic controller," he said.

"It's scary because everyone is depending on me," Heidlage agreed. "If I mess up, it makes them look bad."

According to Irish, as many as 100 people play a role in this production, although only 38 of them will appear on stage. After almost three months and countless hours of planning, building, stitching, and rehearsing, the curtain will rise and the "magic" will begin. □



COMING ATTRACTIONS

On Campus

TAYLOR AUDITORIUM

Feb. 25 - 28—Guys and Dolls, 7:30 p.m.
March 6—Carmina Burana ballet, 8 p.m.
March 18 - 21—Madrigal Dinner, 7 p.m.

SPIVA ART GALLERY

Feb. 23—Celebrate the Pond exhibit

MATTHEWS AUDITORIUM

Foreign Films
March 3—Page of Madness
March 17—The Promoter
March 31—The Forty-First
April 14—The Torment

WEBSTER AUDITORIUM

Feb. 27—Langston Hughes Celebration, 7 p.m.
March 12—Senior trumpet recital - Ray St. Ledger
March 17—Southern Trio, 7:30 p.m.

Joplin

THE BYPASS

624-9095
Feb. 20—King Friday
Feb. 21—Live Comedy
Feb. 25—Jim Thacker
Feb. 27—Trout Fishing in America

SPIVA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Feb. 20 - March 22—PhotoSpiva

CHAMPS

782-4944
Feb. 20 - 21—Trip Tones
Feb. 24—Josh Smith
Feb. 27 - 28—Hardtops

MEMORIAL HALL

Feb. 21—Blessed Union of Souls and Allure
March 28—Toby Keith and Kevin Sharp

Kansas City

STATION CASINO

March 20—Charlie Daniels Band

Tulsa

MABEE CENTER

Feb. 20—Bryan White and LeAnn Rimes
March 10—Merle Haggard

Springfield

SHRINE AUDITORIUM

April 24—Audio Adrenaline, Supertones, and Jennifer Knapp, 7:30 p.m.



Dr. Steven Tracy will perform "Langston Hughes and the Blues" at 7 p.m. February 27 in Webster Auditorium.

ARTS SHOWCASE

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Contract carries one-year extension, room for profit

Sabreliner Corporation's Premier Turbines facility in Neosho will perform a United States Army contract worth up to \$37 million to inspect and repair up to 462 T700 series engine modules. These engine modules currently power Blackhawk helicopters used by the U.S. Army.

Premier Turbines is already performing substantial work for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army.

The one-year contract carries four one-year extension options and calls for the Sabreliner Corp. to make a substantial investment in facilities and equipment.

Award of the contract was announced by U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), who said the Army's selection of Sabreliner means more jobs for southwest Missouri.

"This is wonderful news for Neosho and all of Missouri," Blunt said. "Sabreliner expects to hire up to 20 more people to perform the work. I applaud the Army for recognizing the dedication to quality of Sabreliner and of southwest Missouri workers."

Sabreliner Corp. is a diversified aviation service, maintenance, and modification firm serving a wide variety of government, military, corporate, airline, and cargo aircraft, jet engines, systems and components through its network of subsidiaries. The company and its subsidiaries have annualized sales of more than \$250 million and employ nearly 2,000 people at 13 separate facilities in seven different states. □

Rotary presents Reed with award for prestige, honor

The Joplin Daybreak Rotary Club had an annual presentation of the Vocational Service Award this morning during the Joplin Daybreak Rotary Club's regular meeting.

The award is traditionally given to an individual who has achieved excellence in his or her profession. The individual is chosen based upon criteria supporting the person upholds high ethical standards in his or her business and professional life.

The 1998 Vocational Service Award was presented to Dr. Dell Reed, director of pastoral care at Freeman Hospitals and Health System. Reed was recognized for the development of the Chaplain's Trust Fund for Freeman Health System and for his "personal commitment" to helping others.

The fund, established by Reed, pays for expensive medications and transportation for patients with financial needs or difficulties.

Reed has been employed with Freeman Hospitals and Health System for 12 years. He served as president of Crowder College for 17 years. □

Committee to discuss events slated for festivity

The Joplin 125th Celebration Committee will meet today at 8 p.m. at the Joplin Historical and Mineral Museum, Schifferdecker Park.

The committee will discuss a variety of festivities slated for the occasion.

Celebration events will include the NASA International Space Station Exhibit, the celebration newsletter, and other activities. □

Annexation hits Council once again with proposal

At a hearing on Monday, the Joplin City Council heard a proposal seeking to annex land east of Joplin.

The eight-square-mile area includes part of the future Range Line bypass.

The Council heard the proposal, though a recent annexation proposal for land southwest of town failed to receive two-thirds majority vote. □

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Roadway promises commerce, speed

Interchange serves as segue for Joplin's 'master plan,' opportunity for commerce

By KIKI COFFMAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Future motorists in Joplin may not dread Saturday night traffic when an alternate route is developed as a bypass to Range Line.

The bypass is to be a four-lane highway running from U.S. Business Route 71 at Carterville to East Seventh Street.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) held a hearing for residents affected by construction of the bypass Feb. 19 at the district office.

Jerry Bradley, project manager for MoDOT, said the hearing provoked little argument.

"We're not receiving any opposition; nearly everyone is in favor of [the bypass]," he said.

MoDOT has given a 10-day period for additional comments on the

construction. The last day of the comment period is Feb. 23.

Joplin needs the bypass for many reasons.

It will provide some traffic relief on Range Line and give local and regional travelers an eastern access to Joplin's east-west arterials.

The interchange will also serve as a high-speed route around the Joplin area.

"Anytime a new road is built it will enhance and encourage development of commerce and industry," Bradley said. "If you're going from Neosho to Missouri Southern or if you're a Northpark Mall shopper coming from the south you won't have to go the full length of Range Line."

The location of the project was approved by the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission on Aug. 9, 1996.

The approved alignment was selected from five proposals presented at the location hearing on Feb. 29, 1996.

The area the future highway passes through is riddled with old mine shafts and chat that would seem to be a hindrance to the project. However, it's a case of "one man's junk, is another man's treasure" since MoDOT representatives are happy about the leftovers.

"The interchange passes through an area with the old mine chats and stuff like that and we will be incorporating some of that material into the roadway as well," Bradley said. "[The chat piles] are actually a big plus because they will also aid and encourage development because of the trucks that it takes to mobilize chat for use in asphalt parking lots and concrete — it's good to have the stuff there and waiting to be used."

MoDOT has worked in collaboration with city, county, and other state agencies to clean up the area using mine tailings in the con-

Anytime a new road is built it will enhance and encourage development of commerce and industry.

Jerry Bradley
project manager (MoDOT)

struction of the roadway. Bradley said the project will cost approximately \$32 million, leading to the next big hurdle for the bypass — money.

"Funding is a problem, more than anything," he said. "We're scheduled to complete one line, taking care of two-way traffic, in 2003, but right away acquisition [of funding] was a problem."

Lanell Scott, an associate at Joe Muggs Coffee, said the route will be a relief to harried travelers.

"I think it will be a big time and money saver for those working in

the area," she said. "It will definitely be a lot safer."

The bypass is part of a much grander scheme in Joplin's master plan for expansion. Several interchanges will be located on Seventh Street, Newman Road, and Zora.

"Zora is not really developed yet, but it will be," Bradley said.

"Zora is part of the city of Joplin's master plan as a major east-west court, running all the way to Schifferdecker," he said. "That's one of the reasons the bypass is being built." □

JOPLIN PARKS AND RECREATION

'Frolf' activity entices families

Joplin Parks, Recreation invites groups to utilize disc golf course

By TAMMY SPICER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Anyone familiar with *Seinfeld* will remember "The Summer of George" and the game of Frolf.

Joplin now has its own version of the game.

"We call it a disc golf course," said Steve Curry, building and grounds supervisor for Joplin Parks and Recreation.

"Some people who play the game in surrounding areas brought the idea to the parks board."

McClelland Park, a city park at the south end of Joplin along Shoal Creek, is the site for the new recreation area.

The nine-hole disc golf course was completed last week after months of work from the city, Curry said.

"We started it in the fall and have worked it in with other projects," he said.

"We did all the work ourselves; we even made the goals. I figure it didn't cost over \$5,000."

One of the reasons the disc golf course was built was to cut down on crime in the park.

The low traffic, bad lighting, and densely wooded area previously was a draw to people who wanted to violate city ordinances, according to Lt. Carl Francis, patrol division commander of the Joplin Police Department.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the improvements at McClelland Park," Francis said.

"We have been saying for years that we need to retake the park, and now we have finally done it."

The disc golf course is a free activity. "Golfers" will be responsible for their own behavior and picking up after themselves.

"I was a little skeptical when I first heard about the plans," Curry said.

"I took my grandkids out there and they really enjoyed themselves."

"People were even out using the course before we were completely finished. I can see a big difference already. It is really going to give the park a positive image."

The improvements along the Shoal Creek park system don't stop at the disc golf course.



DEBORAH SOLOMAN/The Chart

Matthew Irish, 16, Joplin, fine-tunes his skills in the sport disc golf at the new course in McClelland Park.

McIndoe Park, the area near the low water bridge on Shoal Creek, is currently being worked on to eliminate vehicle traffic.

A post barrier is being installed with designated areas for parking.

Francis said he was excited about the upcoming season.

"I am really looking forward to a summer with many family-related activities in the Shoal Creek area," Francis said.

"We couldn't be happier about the changes that have already happened and all the planned improvements." □

CITY OF JOPLIN

Anniversary invites NASA

By JALYN HIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

Joplin is having a birthday party and everyone is invited. Starting in March and continuing through Oct. 10, a celebration will be going on.

In January 1998, Joplin began its 125th anniversary as a city.

For the celebration, events are categorized under history, advancement, parades, patriotism, and youth, or HAPPY.

"We basically tried to get events going in those areas," said Teresa Gilliam, committee member.

During March, parades, a "singspiration," and reenactments of actual events have been scheduled. On March 23, a city charter signing reenactment will be held at City Hall.

In April, a NASA exhibit consisting of a full-size mock-up of the parts of the orbiting laboratory and living quarters in the station will be at Northpark Mall for viewing. The exhibit will be transported to Joplin on two 48-foot trailers and connected in an "L" shape. School groups are encouraged to attend. The region-wide Science Fair will be held at Northpark Mall.

Interested citizens can buy tickets to an Industrial Strength Progressive Dinner in May. The dinner includes tours of industrial sites in Joplin.

A hot-air balloon launch is scheduled for the month of June, and an old-fashioned celebration for the Fourth of July includes fun for family members of all ages.

"I think it is a good idea to get people involved," said Amy Rand, a junior business major at Missouri Southern.

A lifelong citizen of Webb City, she admits she didn't know this was Joplin's anniversary.

Rand believes awareness will increase closer to the kick-off date due to more advertisement.

"The way Joplin is set up, there are so many little suburbs close and it will get them involved," she said.

"We have memorabilia such as coffee mugs, medals, and pennants, all engraved with the logo for the celebration," Gilliam said.

According to Gilliam, organizations interested in funding upcoming events may contact Patrick Tuttle or Brad Belk at 623-1180. □

VILLAGE OF DUQUESNE

Bank suggests parties, banquets generate resources

By ERIC GRUBER
STAFF WRITER

Anyone looking for a place to party should look no further than Seventh and Duquesne.

Southwest Missouri Bank (SMB) recently finished its community room, which is available to the general public for use.

"Most of our banks have what we call a 'community room,' which is a room that we make available to the public," said Scott Rosenthal, senior vice president of SMB.

He said the room was located in the basement of SMB, but due to "ease of accessibility" and the need to put in more offices, a new facility was built south of the bank. The property was already owned by SMB, and construction of the building took about three months.

Rosenthal said the community building is available to the public as long as users leave

the building in good condition.

"It is used a lot," he said. "There is no cost for using it. We just ask that the room be returned to us in the condition that it was given to them in."

There is no alcohol, for-profit activities, or smoking allowed in the building. "We have a lot of calls that come in for non-profit organizations," said Christina Putman, employee of SMB.

Putman said the community room had been open to the public since September 1988. The new building has been used for bridal showers, birthday parties for children, and even "over-the-hill" parties.

Other events include anniversaries and support groups.

"It gives the community a chance to have a party without paying a huge fee," Putman said. There hasn't been a dedication yet, but it may be forthcoming. "We've thought about it, but haven't done anything yet," Rosenthal



JASON FOSTER/The Chart

Sue Fortenbough leads a TOPS group in discussion in the new community room at Southwest Missouri Bank. The room is made available area groups and organizations.

said. "We're just kind of now getting it up and running and off the ground. We'll probably do some kind of ribbon cutting."

Anyone interested in using the building can

call SMB at 623-5959 for more information.

"All they have to do is call us and check on the date and time and see if it's available," Rosenthal said. □

HEE-HAW



AARON DESLATTÉ/The Chart

The Missouri State Fairgrounds exhibit was featured at the Capitol building in Jefferson City on Tuesday. Free lunch was provided.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SYSTEM

UMKC review stalls

Legislators say faulty leads prompted look into UMKC's Division I athletic program

By AARON DESLATTÉ
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — One month after calling for a financial review of the University of Missouri-Kansas City's basketball program, Missouri lawmakers now concede information that stirred interest in the program may have been incorrect.

Initially sparked by a Jan. 11 article in *The Kansas City Star*, state legislators said they were concerned about UMKC's decision to stay in NCAA Division I despite losing millions of dollars since making the jump 10 years ago.

Rep. Sandy Kauffman (R-Kansas City), a member of the higher education appropriations committee, was one of the first legislators to call for the review. Kauffman now says the review has reached a stand-still and failed to produce cause for a continued investigation.

According to Kauffman, her original interest in the program was generated by a miscommunication between her office and *The Star*, which Kauffman said had indicated to her the basketball program was generating an annual deficit.

Kauffman says her findings conflict with those of *The Star*.

"The athletic program may be losing money, but the basketball program is generating a steady revenue," Kauffman said.

"When the issues were raised in [*The Star*], maybe the right questions weren't asked. I believe

the main issue raised by *The Star* doesn't exist."

According to Kauffman, *The Star* also alleged the financial shortfalls of UMKC's athletic program were compensated with funding from the school's faculty budget — a fund that Kauffman learned does not exist.

"I don't know where they [*The Star*] got their information," she said. "The funding came from the university's operating budget."

Kauffman also says a delay by UMKC officials in providing requested information prolonged legislators' review of the university's program.

"From the beginning, there was a lack of clear communication between the university and the legislature," she said. "I needed figures that were

more defined. They lumped figures together, and it didn't tell me what I needed. It was not my responsibility to seek out the information; it was the responsibility of the institution to provide it."

Rep. Marsha Campbell (D-Kansas City), who had pledged to work with Kauffman on the review, says interest in exploring the viability of Division I sports at UMKC still exists and will continue to be the focus of review by her office and the university.

"What appeared in *The Star* was not the crux of the problem," Campbell said.

"What should be considered is not whether we should have Division I athletics, but why we have athletics at all."

Campbell says despite the athletic department's financial shortfalls, the Division I status has generated interest in the university that did not exist before.

"What we've seen is that there is a great opportunity to increase the participation in all Division I sports," she said.

"I think the whole discussion has brought a lot of support to athletics in general at the university." □

“When the issues were raised in [*The Kansas City Star*], maybe the right questions weren't asked. I believe the main issue raised by *The Star* doesn't exist.”

Rep. Sandy Kauffman
(R-Kansas City)

SOUTHERN BUDGET

College President appears before Senate committee

Leon defends need for Southern budget increase; pushes mission programs

By AARON DESLATTÉ
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Southern President Julio Leon appeared before the Missouri Senate appropriations committee Tuesday in order to defend the College's budget and capital improvement recommendations.

Southern was recommended by Gov. Mel Carnahan to receive an operating budget of \$19,870,071 for the 1999 fiscal year budget, which constitutes an 8.5 percent increase over last year's budget.

According to Leon, the inflationary increase is meant to compensate for an ongoing mis-

sion enhancement in accordance with the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE).

Leon said he was encouraged by committee members' overall support for the College's budget increases.

"I think we may have the most distinctive of the enhanced missions assigned by the [CBHE]," he said. "It is easier for legislators to see what we're doing that's new and what we're accomplishing."

Sen. Marvin Singleton (R-Seneca) said the College received a less stringent cross-examination than other state colleges and universities due in part to a lack of drastic policy

“I think we have the most distinctive of the enhanced missions assigned by the [CBHE].”

Dr. Julio Leon
Missouri Southern President

changes in campus operations.

"We didn't have some of the controversial issues that other schools did," said Singleton, who is the second highest-ranking Republican on the appropriations committee. "Some schools also didn't have a senator from their district on the commission. I was kind of leading interference for Southern."

Among the schools that received the most stringent questioning were Southwest Missouri State University, which received criticism from committee Democrats for an early faculty retirement policy and for a policy adopted by the SMSU Board of Regents that Sen. Harry Wiggins (D-Kansas City) said would discourage SMSU faculty from running for public office.

Singleton said gaining Senate approval of Southern's budget would not present a problem once the House had given approval. According to Singleton, the only challenge remaining is to secure Southern's capital improvement recommendation, which could be nullified by a Cole County Circuit Court ruling that states the funding to be used for the allocation is part of the state's total revenue and subject to refund under the Hancock Amendment.

"Certainly, there is a problem for capital improvements," Singleton said. □

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Republicans propose alternate insurance plan

House Republicans this week unveiled a plan which would aid Missouri children in obtaining private health insurance. According to Republicans, Gov. Mel Carnahan's opposing plan would provide aid only to targeted income groups and would provide only an option of state-run health insurance.

"Our plan is to promote health insurance for all Missouri children, while maintaining the integrity of our nation's private health care system," said Rep. Charlie Shields (R-St. Joseph), the bill's sponsor. "Our bill provides refundable tax credits to families of all incomes who buy health insurance for their children. The credits are based on a sliding scale of incomes."

"In addition, we provide a little start-up money for those interested in creating a purchasing pool for children's health insurance," Shields said. "The state can even help start such a pool, but within 18 months of providing the first coverage, our plan absolutely guarantees that it will be the parents of the children insured who run the pools, not unelected bureaucrats or political appointees."

The plan is written to make the state eligible for some federal monies available on this topic.

"The governor's plan only helps children of certain incomes, while our plan helps all children," Shields said. "The governor's plan expands state-run health care while our plan promotes and protects free choice in health care options." □

Shields sponsors urban education renewal bill

A bill which calls for "urban education renewal" was filed this week.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Shields (R-St. Joseph), would set up a separate committee in both Kansas City and St. Louis to develop a plan to break up the existing school district and divide each one into a minimum of five new smaller districts.

The plan would then be submitted to local citizens of each district to be voted upon.

"The bill will empower local communities and citizens with the ability to make decisions concerning the future of their children's education," Shields said. "Not only does it allow local individuals to decide upon a course of action, but it allows all citizens a voice in government through the ballot box."

The committee will consist of 13 members appointed by several different people, including the speaker, minority floor leaders of both the House and Senate, the mayors of St. Louis and Kansas City, and the school board in the districts.

Shields, who serves on the Joint Committee on Desegregation and School Finance, added that the bill would allow the committee to sponsor charter schools within that district, and requires the redistricting proposal to include a transportation plan for the new districts. In addition, the bill states the committee must formulate a plan for using the new districts for tax purposes.

"We have heard that there are major structural barriers to effectively operate school districts with 35,000 and 45,000 students. The best example of this may be the fact that both Kansas City and St. Louis spend between \$3,000-\$4,000 more per student, per year than other districts," Shields said. "This bill will hold these school districts more accountable and will force them to operate in an efficient manner." □

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED



AARON DESLATTÉ/The Chart

Advocates for the Reform Organization of Welfare (ROWEL) marched on the Capitol building on Tuesday in opposition to welfare reform legislation which the organization claims is targeting single mothers.

HEALTH

legislation aims at unifying EOBs

By AARON DESLATTÉ
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hospital patients fear and loathe them. They sometimes give Joyce Thullesen headaches. State Sen. Marvin Singleton (R-Seneca) has filed legislation which would effectively kill them.

The object of their disdain is not an advanced medical condition, but the insurance paperwork which is used to explain the benefits provided by insurance companies.

Currently, there exists no policy as to what an explanation of benefits (EOB) form must contain. Thullesen, clinical supervisor for Singleton who is a practicing physician, says the difficulties with current EOB forms stem from their lack of uniformity.

"One of the difficulties with the EOBs is the name," Thullesen said. "The insurance companies won't put down the full name of the patient. Without having a full name on the EOB, it's difficult to identify the patient."

Thullesen says the problem with incomplete or inaccurate EOB forms is the most common annoyance.

In response to what many health care officials are perceiving to be an increasing problem for both medical practitioners and recipients, Singleton has filed a bill which would require health insurers to use a standardized form whenever an explanation of benefits is given to the health care provider.

Singleton, who has been in private medical practice since 1972, says the legislation addresses a problem which has increased dramatically since managed health care came into existence. □

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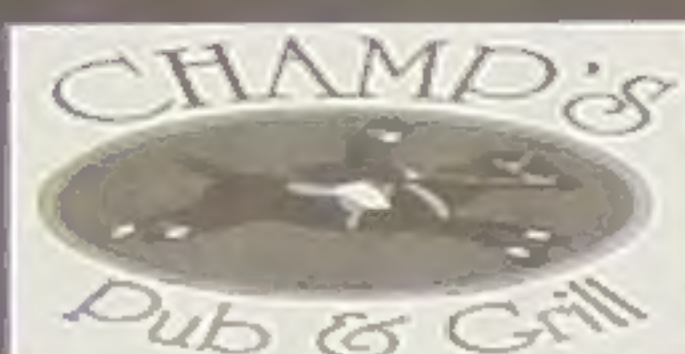
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Practicing for the season, junior jumper Rachel Carlin works on her long jump skills along with head women's track and field coach Patty Vavra.
TIM WILSON/The Chart

Lions prepare for conference

By JOE ECKHOFF
STAFF WRITER

With the conference competition less than two weeks away, the Lions had a warm-up meet last weekend at Central Missouri State University against some of the conference teams.

"We had some improvement with the throwers and the sprinters; they're still a little behind and I hope we can get ready in two weeks," said Tom Rutledge, men's track and field coach.

Even though the sprinters and throwers struggled early, it wasn't due to lack of effort, he said.

"It just takes time with youth to get experience, but they're just a little behind," Rutledge said.

It was another solid weekend for the distance runners. Leading the way for the Lions were Jay Cox, Dusty Franks, Jon Wilks, and Jack Halsey.

"I was pleased with the effort; it gave us a good glance at how conference is going to be," Rutledge said.

One athlete who had to adjust was jumper Tyson Sims.

"Tyson struggled because he was used to

jumping with spikes, and you couldn't there," Rutledge said.

The Lions didn't have the services of pole vaulter Jeremy Green, who is suffering from mono.

"He was the No. 3 vaulter in the conference, and he was doing very well," Rutledge said.

The Lady Lions were also in action at CMSU.

"It was a final tune-up, and we had some people run different events that they may run in conference," said coach Patty Vavra.

Putting in good shows at the meet were Dalana Lofland in the 55- and 800-meter runs, Sonia Eudy in the mile, and Heather Hoyle in the 55- and 200-meter runs. It was a surprise with Lofland's performance in the 800-meter, which she usually doesn't run.

"I thought she may have a chance to [gain a provisional qualifying mark]," Vavra said. Hoyle has also kept improving, Vavra said.

"Heather ran very close to her best times in both events from last year," she said.

One of the best performances of the weekend was by Tina Keller, who set a school record in the 55-meter hurdle run.

Keller's individual time also provided her with

"Every race from the 55 to the 5000 we are gaining on people at the end, and, they are not running away from us."

Patty Vavra
Women's track coach

an NCAA Division II qualifying mark.

"Every race from the 55 to the 5,000, we are gaining on people at the end, and they are not running away from us," Vavra said.

Both Southern squads will be running at Pittsburg State University this weekend, with a few athletes running at the University of Missouri. □

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Lion victory restores confidence

By SUSIE FRISBIE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

By the Numbers

With only one game remaining in regular season play, the Missouri Southern Lady Lions basketball team hopes to close out its season with back-to-back victories.

The Lady Lions came out victorious Wednesday night as they traveled to University of Missouri-Rolla to take on the Lady Miners.

After a 69-59 victory, the Lady Lions moved to 2-13 in conference play and 4-21 overall. The Lady Miners fell to 2-13 in the conference and 8-17 overall with the loss.

Lady Lions head coach Amy Townsend believes this victory is a statement to the determination of her players.

"It would be really easy for us to just throw in the towel, so we're looking at these last games as a way to end our season on the best possible note," she said.

In last Saturday's game against Truman State University, sophomore guard Chara Oldfield cracked her right fibula.

With Oldfield's injury, adjustments had to be made in Southern's line-up.

"We had a lot of players out of position, but we communicated better than we had all year," Townsend said.

Townsend was enthusiastic about the contribution she got from all her players.

"There really wasn't just one player who stood out and did it all for us," Townsend said.

The Lady Lions had four players in double figures including Mandy Olson with 13, KaTonya Samuels and Lyndsey Kenealy with 12, and Megan Mickey with 10.

MSSC	36	33	69
UMR	27	32	59

■ Mandy Olson 13, KaTonya Samuels 12, Lyndsey Kenealy 12, Megan Mickey 10, Sara Jones 8, Shelly Oliver 8

NEXT UP:

Southern at Pittsburg State, 5:45 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21

Townsend believes the Lady Lions strong offensive play was the essential factor in the victory.

"The key for us was that we shot 48 percent in the first half and Rolla only shot 33 percent," Townsend said. The Lady Miners made a couple of runs at the Lady Lions in the second half, and at one point cut their lead to three.

However with leadership from senior guard Samuels, the Lady Lions were able to pull away.

"She had a lot to do with keeping our team focused," Townsend said.

Along with Samuels' 13 points, she also had five rebounds, eight assists, and only two turnovers in the 39 minutes she played.

Townsend believes her team can gain confidence from Wednesday night's victory and this Saturday's game at Pittsburg State.

"We have a lot to play for," Townsend said. "The whole season is ending in a good way for us. I think this will give us a boost for next season so we can have the confidence we need."

The Lady Lions will travel to Pittsburg State to take on the Gorillas at John Lance Arena, Saturday night at 5:45 p.m. to finish out regular season play. □



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Sports SCOPE

Nagano bears resemblance to Southern

Watching the Winter Olympics from Nagano, Japan, I was surprised at the variety of sports to participate in, although variety is not the word to describe the amount of coverage each sport has received.

Of course, CBS is worried about its ratings and trying to make the most out of getting to broadcast the 1998 games. Because of this, it is not surprising that the glory

sports such as hockey, downhill skiing, and figure skating are getting the most coverage. But don't the lugers, the cross country skiers, and curlers deserve the same amount of coverage? How many people even know there is a sport called curling?

Don't they work as much or as hard to reach their goals of Olympic gold? Does the fact that their sport does not bring in as much money as the others mean that those athletes who participate shouldn't receive due recognition?

It's sad but true: the gold medal curling team probably won't make the front of the Wheaties' box.

And for those glory sports, is the American hockey team going to be looked at as a failure because it didn't perform up to expectations and will return without a medal? No, the men's hockey team did not play the quality game we are used to, but the day after their elimination they have to wake up to the television stations and newspapers analyzing what went wrong.

Meanwhile, several other athletes in little-known sports are experiencing the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. It's just too bad no one else will know until CBS decides to dedicate a five-minute segment to these sports on its late night edition.

Are the Olympics so different from Missouri Southern athletics?

I don't think so. The glory sports, such as football, basketball, and baseball, have a much greater following than little-known sports such as track, golf, and tennis. Yes, a football game is going to bring in more money than a tennis match, but does that mean that these athletes should receive less recognition?

Most of the athletes in the little followed sports are putting in as much time, effort, and dedication and are doing so for a lot less.

I realize that it may not be as exciting for some spectators to watch golf as opposed to football, but shouldn't we care enough to acknowledge the fact that our peers and classmates are excelling at something outside the classroom?

And when our women's basketball team is struggling, why must we focus on the negative aspects of the season?

Yes, much of this negativity is brought to the public via media sources like television and newspapers; for that I am sorry.

I'm also sorry I say that I don't see this aspect of journalism changing anytime soon. It won't be until television viewers and newspaper readers reject such negativity and thirst for something positive that things will change.

It may be a long wait. □

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lion loss raises playoff questions

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Wednesday night's 82-73 loss to Missouri-Rolla puts the Missouri Southern basketball Lions in danger of finishing the 1997-98 campaign with six consecutive losses.

After beginning the season with a 5-2 start and spending most of the season in the middle of the MIAA standings, Southern is currently on the brink of playoff contention.

"The only way it (a playoff berth) would happen if we lost to Pitt would be if Southwest Baptist lost both of their games," Corn said. "But if they win one we've got to beat Pitt."

A win Saturday, according to Corn would not only give the Lions a chance at postseason, but, give them confidence going into the first round.

As seems to be this season's trend, the Lions, 13-12 overall and 6-9 in the conference, came out strong in the first half, ending the half with a 36-26 lead.

The second half, however, was again the Lions downfall as they allowed the Miners (12-13, 7-8) to outscore them 56-37.

According to Robert Corn, Lions head basketball coach, defense made the difference in the game. When the defense played well in the first half, Corn said, the offense clicked. But, when the defense fell off in the second half it made it difficult for the offense to come together.

"We played well for the first 19 minutes," he said. "I felt like we were effective and we got a good look at the three."

Lesser performance in the second half was partly due to lack of intensity.

"We didn't do a good job of execution or taking care of the ball," Corn said.

Corn said the team could see Rolla making a run, but failed to stop them.

"Things like that you just can't let happen in a situation when you just need some good execution," he said.

Miner guards Cory Brunson and Robert Guster scored 24 and 11 points respectively.

"It seems like every time we play someone they have a career night against us," Corn said.

Osiris Ricardo had a strong game for the Lions, producing 10 points and nine rebounds in his 33 minutes of play.

"I think Osiris played a really solid basketball game," Corn said.

"That's the kind of game we need out of him."

Matt Olson also surpassed the 1000 point mark in his career in Southern. His 18 points gave 1,015 career points.

The Lions finish the regular season

By the Numbers

MSSC	36	37	73
UMR	26	56	82

■ Matt Olson 18, Mario Phillips 13, Alan Brown 13, Osiris Ricardo 10, Terry Mills 8, Brian Taylor 8

NEXT UP:

Southern at Pittsburgh State, 7:45 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21

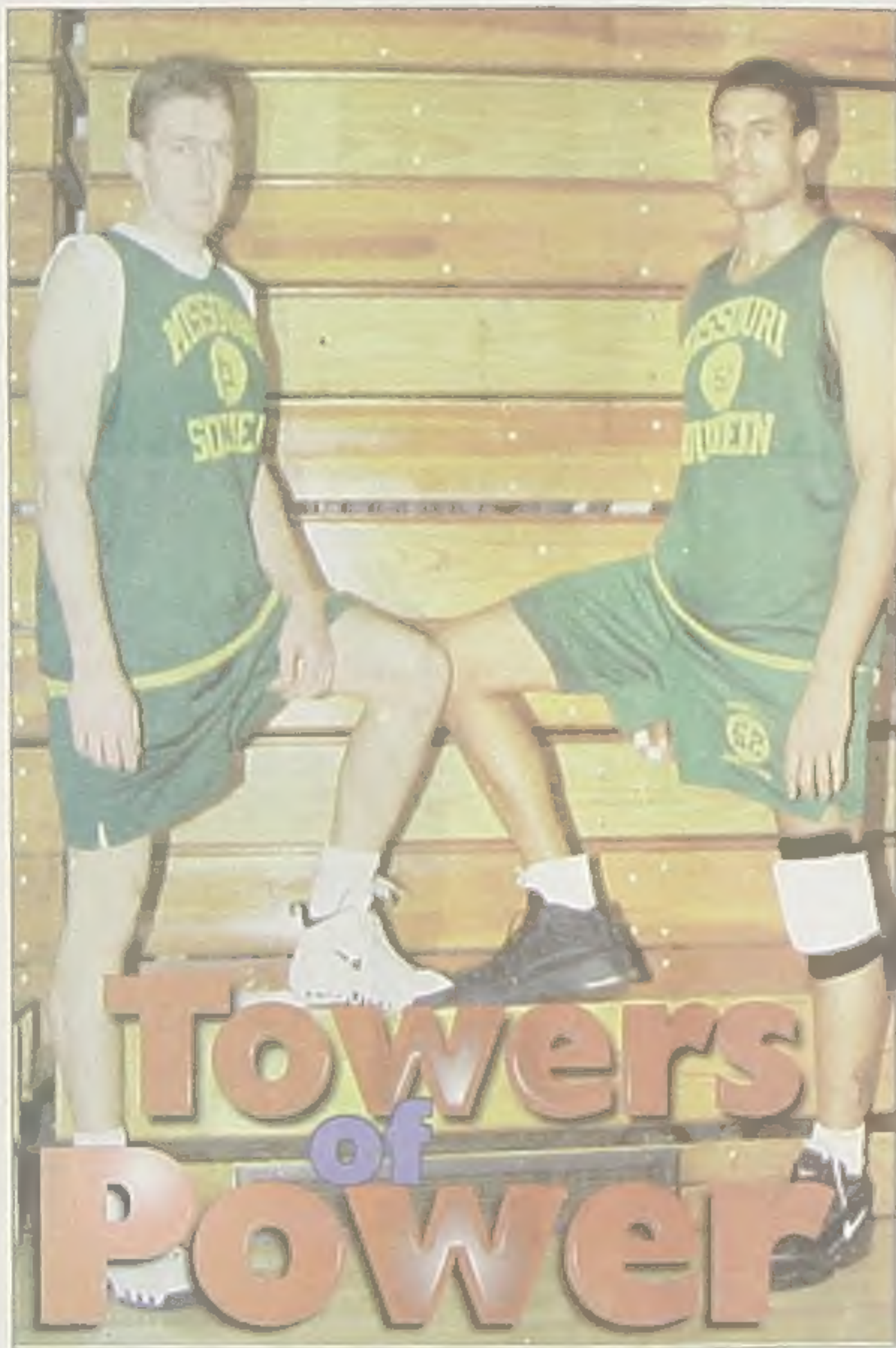
Saturday night in Pittsburg. The Gorillas downed Southern 83-76 January 26 at Young Gymnasium.

"We just have to suck it up, regroup, and play a good basketball game," Corn said. □

MEN'S BASKETBALL FEATURE

“Osiris is a good defender and rebounder, and he concentrates on those areas. I’m more of a finisher.”

Olson, Ricardo double trouble for opponents



Lion big-men posting massive numbers this season

By ANDRE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Inch for inch, the Missouri Southern men's basketball team has one of the most dynamic, down-low duos in the MIAA.

Matt Olson and Osiris Ricardo have combined for an average of 27 points and 14 rebounds per game. In addition, the pair have registered nearly 80 blocked shots, and their playing styles complement each other well.

Head coach Robert Corn depends upon Olson, a 6-foot-9 junior from Neosho, to score points, while Ricardo is best at rebounding and shot blocking.

"Coach defined our roles for us," Olson said. "Osiris is a good defender and rebounder, and he concentrates on those areas. I'm more of a finisher."

They admitted to working best in high-low situations. When the two are in at the same time, Ricardo plays in the high post while Olson waits for the pass underneath. Both said they would rather Ricardo be the passer.

"O is a great passer," Olson said. "You've always got to be ready for his passes. If we run an X play across the lane, we work well because we're looking for each other."

"He's (Olson) a good shooter and he goes to the basket hard," Ricardo said. "I'm probably the better passer of the two of us, so I look for him first. If he's not open, I look for a back-door play."

Ricardo came to Southern this season after playing two years at South Plains Community College in Texas. At South Plains, he was named honorable mention all-conference and voted the team's most improved player two straight years. The Rio Piedra, Puerto Rico, native averaged 20 points and eight rebounds in high school and led his team to two conference titles.

For several summers, Ricardo played in a league in Puerto Rico where few fouls are called.

"The refs just let us play in the summer league," Ricardo said. "There are more weak

calls in the United States, but it hasn't been hard to adjust to."

He was brought to Southern for one main reason.

"We wanted him to come in and provide another big body on the court and help Matt in there instead of Matt having to take a pounding for 40 minutes," Corn said. "Each of them can take a pounding for 20 minutes a piece. Because of his background, Osiris is strong and plays a very physical game."

Corn added it is difficult for teams to double team one of the big men if there are two in the game. Since they combine for close to 14 feet and 460 pounds of man, MIAA opponents may find it difficult to develop a game plan.

So how do they do it?

"When we play teams that are very fast, they like to penetrate the paint and we can't have both of them in at the same time," Corn said. "If we leave them in the game in those situations, we are encountered with match-up problems."

Olson averaged 7.9 points as a freshman and 15.7 the following year. More than 62 percent of his shots have gone through the net this season, which leads the MIAA. In Wednesday night's game at the University of Missouri-Rolla, Olson reached the 1,000-point career milestone.

"It has been fun to watch Matt's progress," Corn said. "He has really developed and matured as a person and player. He's got nothing but greatness in his future."

Olson was a second-team all-MIAA selection last year and has had another good season. Not only does he get the job done on the court, but he also gets it done in the classroom. Olson's 3.91 grade-point average is the highest on the team.

"He's an outstanding student, and academics are very important to him," Corn said.

Both players look forward to finishing the season strong and playing a very physical postseason.

"When you get into the playoffs, the stakes are raised," Olson said. "We will have to play very physical to be successful." □

ANALYSIS

Lady Lions rebuilding, recruiting in transition year

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Two years in a row, the Missouri Southern Lady Lions have finished below .500. This season the team has won only four times.

According to head coach Amy Townsend and Sallie Beard, women's athletic director, this is not the decline of the program but a time of transition.

Saturday's game against Pittsburg State will be the final one of Townsend's rookie season as a head coach and the last one in green and gold for seniors K.T. Samuels and Shelly Oliver.

■ A rebuilding year

Townsend said underclassmen received a lot of playing time. Freshmen forward Sara Jones started every game.

By playing younger players and moving experienced players to new positions, Townsend created depth and provided time for several players to see action.

"There were times we can play eight or

nine players," she said. Nine players are averaging more than 10 minutes a game.

Townsend tries to give the younger players "quality time" in the game, "not just the last two minutes of the game."

"We are doing things coach asks us to do better," said sophomore forward Lyndsey Kenealy.

But in adjusting to a new coach, system, position, and teammates, the Lady Lions showed a lack of cohesion on the floor. This weakness was exploited by foes in the MIAA.

"We played teams that tried to pressure us," Townsend said. "They saw on film that was a weakness."

Most of this back court pressure often fell on sophomore point guard Chara Oldfield.

Townsend said the point guard is often blamed when things go wrong, but Oldfield has matured with experience. She said the added maturity will make her better in the next two years. Oldfield, who has a history of knee injuries, suffered a broken fibula Saturday against Truman State.

Townsend and Beard both saw improve-

ment throughout the year. Townsend saw the team improve decision making and reading defenses better. She was not always pleased with the play underneath.

"Another weakness that was disappointing for me as a coach was rebounding," Townsend said. "When we did rebound well, it kept us in the ball game."

Keys of rebuilding include developing younger players on the team and better recruiting.

"We were really pleased with the younger players," Townsend said. "Every freshman (this season) will contribute somehow during their career here."

"We proved something different each game," Kenealy said. She said improvement came as the team learned new offenses and better defenses.

■ The recruiting trail

Townsend and assistant coach Cathy Shoup have been looking at high school and junior college players to bring in to Southern. Townsend is optimistic about next year's prospects.

"We have been hard at it since last summer," she said. "We feel like we have a handle on some players that can contribute."

Beard said recruiting has been a shortcoming for Southern the last two seasons.

"We have lost seniors to graduation, and they have not been replaced in the annual recruiting scheme," Beard said.

Townsend said results of this year's recruiting will not be seen this spring when players sign letters of intent but two or three years down the road.

■ The glass is half full

The close-knit Lady Lions are not divided by defeat.

"I give a lot of credit to Coach Townsend and Coach Shoup," Beard said.

"Despite the dismal record, I have seen this team improve when a lot of teams would have fallen apart. I have seen this team get stronger."

"One of the biggest strengths was the ability to stay close (as a team)," Townsend said. "These players did a lot of things off the court together." □